



Southall: Defence and she dressed to kill



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# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Showers

40p (IR 45p)

## Can anyone fill Clarke's shoes?

COLIN BROWN and ANTHONY BEVINS

John Major last night left his Chancellor Kenneth Clarke swinging in the wind in spite of issuing a mild rebuke to a Foreign Office minister for accusing Mr Clarke of being "out of line" with the rest of the Government on a single European currency.

The Prime Minister was forced to support his Chancellor to stop Mr Clarke's position being made untenable at the Tory party conference in a fortnight where right-wing Eurosceptics will be lining up to challenge him.

The Prime Minister's office said Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had been "mistaken" in his attack on the Chancellor's views, but it stopped short of a full message of support for Mr Clarke.

Mr Major spoke to Mr Clarke by telephone yesterday when the Chancellor landed in Bermuda, but subsequent No 10 statements failed to answer reports that Mr Major is furious with Mr Clarke for holding out against a more Euro-sceptic policy, which could trump Tony Blair's New Labour.

The Prime Minister's office followed a clear-cut challenge from Paddy Ashdown at the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton: "Stop undermining

Cabinet colleagues privately said it would be "disastrous" for the Government to lose the Chancellor, Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, lined up with Mr Clarke, warning the Euro-sceptics that the option for entering a single currency would not be closed before the election. But the signal from Downing Street was double-edged, making it clear that Mr Clarke must adhere in future to the line the Cabinet has agreed.

The No 10 spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has made it clear all ministers must adhere to the position agreed by the Cabinet. The Chancellor fully supports this policy and believes his views have been misinterpreted. The Minister of State gave his interview on the basis of press reports of the Chancellor's views and accepts that he was mistaken."

It was intended as a clear signal to the Euro-sceptics to hold back from attacking Mr Clarke at the Tory conference, but it is unlikely to keep them at bay.

Sir Edward Heath said there was an attempt to "get Clarke" by the Euro-sceptics, and there was no attempt to deny reports that Mr Major shared the anger at Mr Clarke's remarks.

The backstabbing against the Chancellor also involved Conservative Central Office. Senior Tory sources were behind reports that Mr Major was furious over Mr Clarke's claim at the weekend that it would be "pathetic" if Britain waited for other countries to launch a single currency before deciding whether to join.

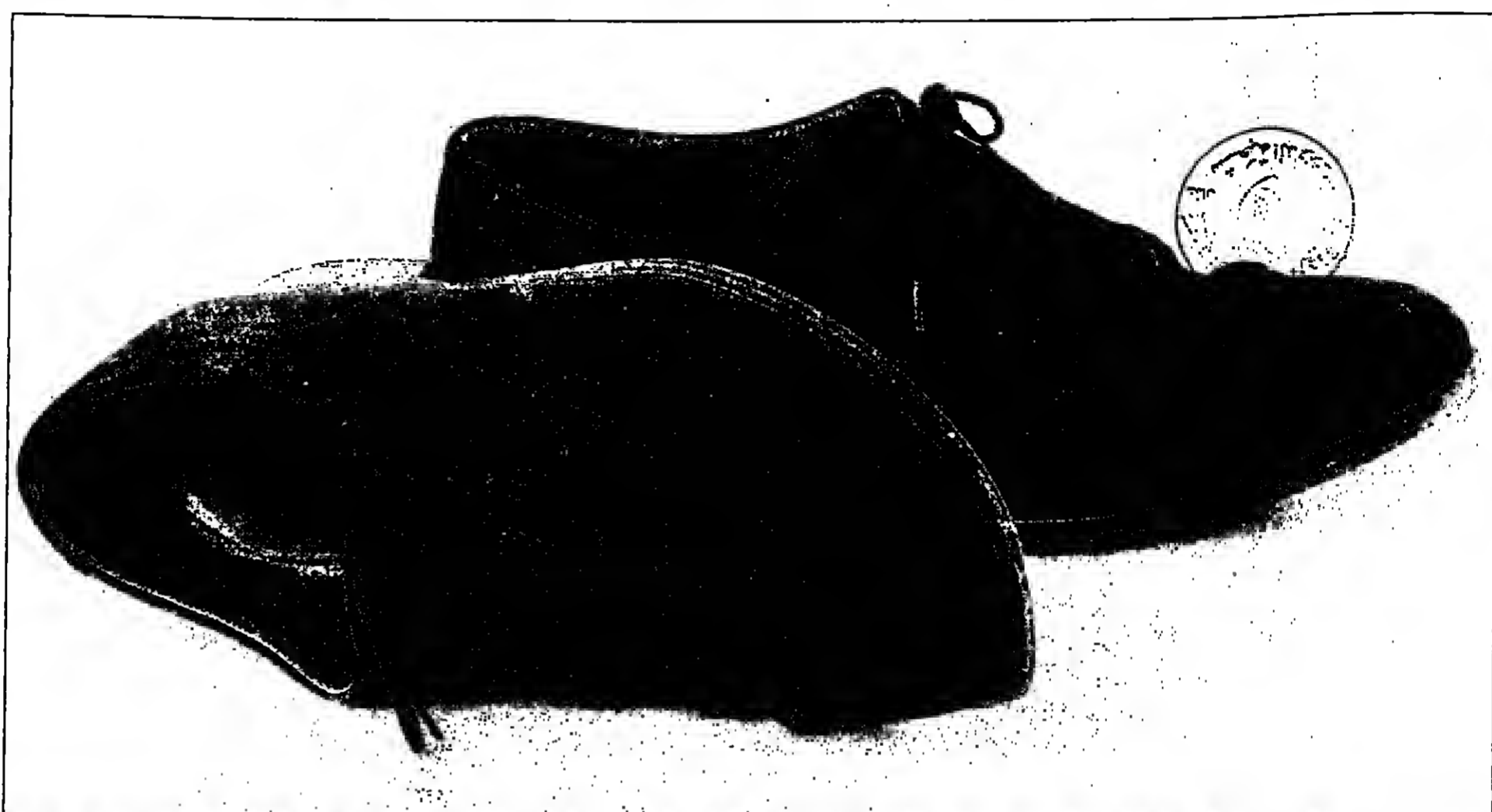
Mr Clarke was in the air en route for a finance conference in Bermuda when Downing Street began the damage limitation operation.

Sir Nicholas, a Euro-sceptic, said: "I think he will be out of line with the view of the vast majority of the party and I think it is out of line with what the government policy has been as expressed before."

"I think the difference between Mr Clarke and some of us is that he thinks we can have a single European currency without having a federal Europe. We think, many of us in the party, that that would be an inevitable step down a road we don't want to advance down."

Two normally supportive Cabinet colleagues yesterday told *The Independent* that it was the Chancellor's own fault. "The trouble with Ken is that he is just too honest and speaks his mind," said one.

Another Cabinet minister said: "There are only two people out of the 55 million in this country who think we are going to join the single currency in the first wave - Ken Clarke and possibly Heseltine."



Shoddy footwork: John Major is reportedly furious with Kenneth Clarke for holding out against a more Euro-sceptic policy which could trump New Labour. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

## No. They're not even fit to tie the laces

By Andrew Marr

Here we go again. There are two kinds of cabinet splits. There are the ordinary ones; and there are the great splits between Prime Ministers and Chancellors which have marked British post-war politics - Thorneycroft and Macmillan in 1958; Roy Jenkins and Harold Wilson during the late 1960s; the bitter Nigel Lawson, Margaret Thatcher grudge match of 1990. This autumn's argument between John Major and Kenneth Clarke is climbing into the same league.

How do we know? Party managers have been making heroic efforts to paper over the crack, insisting there is an "agreed policy" of neutrality on the single currency.

The trouble is, neither Prime Minister nor Chancellor seem much interested in colluding with the official line of the administration they lead.

Mr Clarke, describing a policy of late entry into monetary union as "pathetic" was indulging in a wholly deliberate provocation - "just baring his

backside and daring everyone to kick it", as a Tory official charitably put it.

Yesterday it earned him one of the most vicious kickings that a senior Tory minister has had from the Tory Press in modern times. It came in particular from the Murdoch empire, which both Mr Major and Tony Blair are so nervous of. *The Sun* said he should go or be sacked: "Don't kid yourself that anyone would miss you, Ken... Clarke must be stamped on." Using notably similar language, the *Times* said he was disonourable and brutally concluded: "He would be less missed than he likes to think and little mourned."

Given that Clarke is a Chancellor with a rising economic reputation, whose pre-election Budget matters hugely to the Tories and who is speaking out bravely in what he believes is Britain's national interest, this is extraordinary stuff. A political

lynch mob of compulsive disloyalists are now howling against the Chancellor for arguing his case rather more moderately than they do theirs.

Most are not fit to tie the laces of his notoriously unhygienic suede shoes; and among the politicians in the lynch mob, there isn't one big enough to fill them.

What is Mr Major's attitude to all this? His message of support yesterday, after a junior minister openly attacked the Chancellor (put up to it, we hear), was cold and terse. Deliberately so, surely. Major's people have been briefing in ever-stronger terms about how angry he is with Clarke, and how strongly he personally opposes the single currency.

In this way, Major has been using the parliamentary lobby to send desperate semaphore signals to Clarke's bitterest critics.

The loss of Clarke would cause serious Budget problems, and perhaps market ones too:

other ministers would go. Major, however, is continuing to push. After all, the Chancellor was teetering on the edge of resignation in April, and didn't go then.

Leftist Tories now fear a carefully planned ambush at the Conservative conference, when candidates in marginal seats will stride to the rostrum begging Mr Major to help them win in the spring by declaring himself personally against monetary union.

If Major "let slip" his own view, he would change the Government's policy; on such matters no prime minister speaks "in a personal capacity". That would panic many senior people in the City, who need the option of joining left genuinely open.

The clearing banks are among the businesses most affected and we should expect to see a few more names breaking silence soon, including the chief executive of Barclays, Martin Taylor.

So holding the line until May is the first purpose of the

Clarkeites. But if the Tories lose the election, Clarke might still be in a pivotal position, not as a Tory leader, but as a factional leader in the new parliament. Why? Because a Portillo or Redwood-led Tory opposition would lose the pro-European Tories. One said this week: "I don't think anyone has ever behaved as disloyally as Redwood... a lot of us won't forgive him and we won't serve under him."

As Prime Minister, Tony Blair would face just the same

dilemmas and would have, no doubt, rebels on his benches. So pro-EMU Tory MPs could find themselves mattering to Britain's future in Europe, if not to the future of the Conservative Party itself. These are deep waters. But as the anti-Brussels Tories scent victory, feeling themselves close to hounding Clarke out of politics, they should exercise a little modesty. He's a brave and tough man. It won't be as easy as that.

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## Judge says stalking should be a criminal offence

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

A defence barrister was reported to the Bar Council yesterday after he told a court that a stalker's victim had behaved like a "Queen Bee that dresses to kill". The barrister was rebuked by the judge, who also called for a new law making stalking a criminal offence, to be brought in without delay.

The stalker, Clarence Morris, a convicted rapist, was later found guilty by a Southwark Crown Court jury of two charges of assault for conducting a terrifying campaign against Perry Southall, a dental nurse, 20. Branding him a "very dangerous man", Judge Gerald Butler called for a new law making stalking a criminal offence, to be brought in without delay.

While adjourning sentence until 22 October, Judge Butler said he was considering detention in a secure mental hospital for Morris, who had subjected Ms Southall to 200 incidents of harassment, including twice threatening her with a blade-edged wallpaper scraper.

He had also showered her with bottles of champagne,



Stalker Clarence Morris and his barrister, David Stanton

threw items of women's underwear into the east London dental practice where she worked, and plagued her with 35 letters declaring his love for her. The six-man, six-woman jury agreed with the prosecution that the campaign amounted to actual bodily harm because it had psychologically damaged Ms Southall to such an extent that it was equivalent to physical injury. He was also convicted of common assault.

The case was as noteworthy for the description of Ms Southall by the barrister David Stanton, which prompted Julie Bindel, of the International Conference



on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship to complain to the Bar Council, the barristers' regulatory body. In his closing speech in defence of Morris, who has a criminal record for offences including rape, Mr Stanton told the jury that Ms Southall, who wore a leather outfit to court and had long blonde hair, knew she was attractive, liked the attention of men and encouraged her resemblance to Pamela Anderson, the "over-exposed, sexually active" actress in the *Baywatch* television series. Women who portrayed themselves in that way "ran the risk

... of being on the unwelcome end of male attraction", he said. "It is fair that a young lady who dresses to attract, the Queen Bee that dresses to kill... cries out foul because somebody finds her attractive?" Mr Stanton said.

Judge Butler suggested that the jury might think the remarks were "nothing more than an insult to Ms Southall of a kind that affronts your common sense". After the verdict he said he could not let pass unchallenged Mr Stanton's observations "about women in general and Ms Southall in particular, presenting themselves in a manner designed to attract men and what they must expect as a result."

"May I publicly and entirely dissociate myself from your comments as to that which I believe ought never to have been made," Ms Bindel said Mr Stanton's comments encouraged "a licence to rape, harass and assault any woman who dresses in a way some have decided is seductive or flirtatious."

"Women have the right to dress however they wish and it should not be seen as an open invitation to harassment."

**QUICKLY**  
Worked to breakdown Britain's workforce is being driven to the brink of a mass nervous breakdown as employees work the longest hours in Europe. Page 3

**Dead suspect named**  
Details emerged about the IRA suspect, Dermot O'Neill, 27, who was shot by police during a huge anti-terrorist operation in which 10 tons of explosives were recovered. Page 2

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# 'Lovely lad' killed in raid on IRA

JASON BENNETT and DAVID MCKITTRICK

Details emerged yesterday about the IRA suspect, Dermot O'Neill, 27, who was shot dead by police during a large anti-terrorist operation in which 10 tonnes of explosives were found. The parents of Mr O'Neill, who was born and lived in London, flew from their home in the Irish Republic yesterday to identify their son's body. Their other son, Shane, 23, is understood to be among the five men arrested during the early morning raids on Monday. All of the suspects were still being questioned yesterday at

Paddington Green police station. Armed officers carried out raids at four addresses and recovered a vast amount of home-made explosives, two lorries, car booty traps, and guns at a north London warehouse. Eoghan and Teresa O'Neill, who are retired, yesterday travelled to London from their home in Kilbrin, 30 miles from Cork. Their son was shot at a guesthouse in Hammer-smith, west London and later died in hospital. Shane was also arrested at the address. Dermot O'Neill was born and lived in London and, like his brother Shane, went to London Oratory School in south-west

London. John McIntosh, the headmaster of the school, whose pupils include Tony Blair's son, Euan, said both were "well-behaved and pleasant". There are reports that Dermot O'Neill was sentenced to 12 months in a young offenders' centre after being convicted of fraud and deception charges in 1988. The offences were linked to the Shepherds Bush branch of the Bank of Ireland involving a sum of £75,000, a part of which was reportedly channelled to the IRA. Alan Finn, 36, who lives opposite the brothers in Ayril Street, said he saw Shane being arrested. He said: "He and his

brother were very neighbourly. They didn't come across as being Irish because they both talked with Cockney accents." Mr O'Neill's parents moved to Ireland from London two years ago when they retired. Mr O'Neill originates from Co Cork and his wife from Dublin. They also have two daughters. Dermot O'Neill was in Cork for his father's birthday a couple of weeks ago, according to local residents. Publican Charlie Madden said: "I'm shocked. This was a lovely lad who came home to see his father a couple of times a year." He added that the family never spoke about, nor got involved in, politics.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party, regarded as the political wing of the INLA, claimed yesterday that O'Neill had been unarmed when shot, and called on the media to investigate his death. The other four men being questioned are known as Brian McHugh, James Murphy, Patrick Kelly and Michael Phillips, a 21-year-old, newly qualified engineer working at Gatwick airport. Anti-terrorist officers continued to carry out a detailed search of the three raided properties in London and another property in Crawley, Sussex. Early yesterday, the Irish

police also carried out a series of raids on homes close to the southern side of the border in Co Monaghan and also in Co Longford. The moves were linked to the London operation but no one was arrested. The explosives found in London have plunged the Northern Ireland peace process deeper into crisis. The clear indication that the IRA was intent on fresh bombings has hardened Unionist determination that the issue of decommissioning terrorist weapons must be dealt with at the top of the multi-party talks agenda - which has still not been agreed following weeks of wrangling by participants.

## significant shorts

### Tory flagship tips out refuse contract

The Conservatives' flagship local authority has been forced to call a halt to a private refuse collection service after being inundated with complaints. Wandsworth Council has given the Serviceteam company 12 months' notice to quit although the contract had five years left to run. Arguing that it constituted a "spectacular failure" of the compulsory competitive tendering policy, union officials claimed that the company had failed to empty an average of 100 bins a day and received 800 complaints in one week during July. Phil Walker, a director of Serviceteam, confirmed the company was losing around £1m a year on the contract and had come to a settlement with the council. A spokesman for the Tory group said it was only the second time, out of 110 contracts, that this had happened. "We are convinced that Compulsory Competitive Tendering gives value for money for residents," he said. *Barrie Clement*

### Law will force schools to set targets

Schools will be required by law to measure their progress against performance targets from next year, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday. They will have to set their own targets and will be compelled to tell parents in their annual reports whether they have met them. Mrs Shephard said: "Managers throughout the UK know the benefits of setting targets, comparing performance and drawing up plans for meeting those targets." Mrs Shephard said: "Schools will be expected to set demanding targets." Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers said the announcement was an election gimmick. "It's actually aimed at the voter but it will hurt the teacher by focussing attention away from teaching and on to yet another set of targets." *Judith Judd*

### Quarters sale nets £1,662m for MoD

The controversial sale of the Ministry of Defence married quarters went through yesterday with the exchange of contracts with Annington Homes at a price of £1,662m. The income from the sale and leaseback of the 37,400 married quarters will boost Treasury receipts for possible tax cuts in the Budget. About 2,400 homes will be taken over by the company freehold. *Colin Brown*

### L-drivers face tougher marks

Tougher marking is to be introduced for learner drivers taking their theory test, the Driving Standards Agency announced yesterday. About 85 per cent of those who have sat the test since it was introduced in July have passed. The DSA is now to make the pass mark higher, rising from 26 to 30 out of 35, starting from 1 October. Bernard Hyndan, the chief executive of the DSA, said people would be "safer drivers as a result".

### Car-free day for Britain

Britain's first car-free day is to be held, with the support of government ministers, on 17 June next year when people will be asked to leave their cars at home and travel by public transport, foot or bicycle. *Christian Wolmar*

### Welsh poets call off strike

Welsh bards are claiming a victory after the BBC agreed to cut the amount of English on its Welsh radio service. The poets refused to take part in the recording of a new series of radio shows in protest at BBC Radio Cymru using too much spoken English. But they have called off a five-week strike after the BBC promised to ban English jingles and to play fewer English records. A Radio Cymru spokesman said it was fantasy to suggest the BBC had given in. "Most of the changes introduced... have been in direct response to listeners' wishes," he said.

### Students get attack alarms

Students from Llaneston College, the school where the murdered teenager Caroline Dickinson was a pupil, have been issued with personal attack alarms for the school's first residential field trip since her brutal sex killing in the French village of Pleines Fongeres in July. Caroline, 13, had been sleeping between some bunk beds with four other girl students when an intruder raped and suffocated her in the room in the youth hostel. French police are still hunting her killer. The alarms have been issued to 11 pupils and a teacher from the school who are on a week's A-level geography trip at an unnamed youth hostel in the UK.

### Social worker jailed

A social worker who beat a disabled neighbour senseless and stabbed him with a screwdriver in a feud over a garden fence was jailed for six weeks. Victim Howard Marshall begged for mercy as he was battered by at least 20 punches from David Hickson, a court heard. Hickson, 45, was found guilty of assault after a private prosecution brought by his neighbours because the Crown Prosecution Service twice dropped hearings claiming lack of evidence.

### Airline offers bird a lift

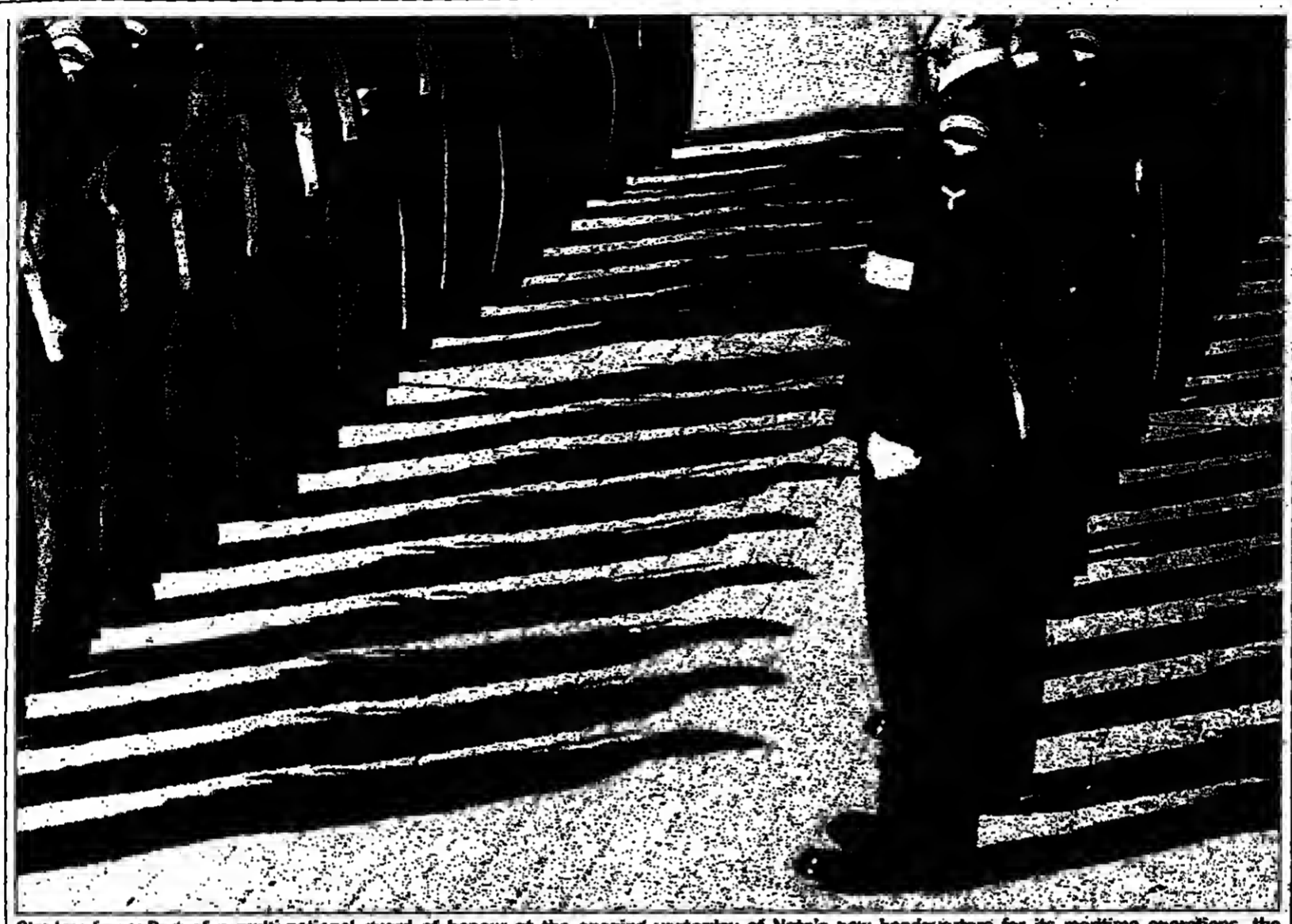
An injured housemartin is all set to migrate south for the winter - by scheduled airline. The tiny creature was unable to make it to North Africa under its own steam after a cat tore out its wing feathers. But Algeria's national airline, Air Algérie, has offered to fly him to his winter home. All the tiny hitchhiker, named Merlin, needs now is a lift to Heathrow from Ivybridge, Devon, where David Gabriel, a veterinary surgeon, has been looking after him.

## Bombs blast British shops

MICHAEL STREETER and PHIL REEVES

A British chain of opocians has been hit by a bombing campaign thought to have been inspired by one of the Mafia-style gangs proliferating in the former Soviet Union. Three stores owned by Vision Express in Lithuania were attacked. The company, which also has stores in Russia, Latvia and Poland and 120 in the Britain, said it had received no demands for payment in return for protection before the bombings, a common tactic in Mafia-style extortionist gangs. But the suspicion remained that the firm had been targeted as part of a wave of organised crime which has hit the Lithuania state since the collapse of Communism. Dean Butler, the head of Vision Express, said: "We are pleased to say that all three stores are trading as usual this morning and it does not appear to have deterred our customers."

The blasts on Moody took place almost simultaneously in the capital, Vilnius, the second city, Kaunas, and the northern town of Panevezys. No one was hurt. The Panevezys store had its doors and windows blown out. A spokesman for the Lithuanian interior ministry said that at the scene of the blast in Kaunas a grenade ring was found. A man was arrested in Vilnius and was believed to be a resident of Panevezys, known as a hotbed of organised crime and where gang shoot-outs are common. Vision Express, based in Nottingham, set up the first of its four stores in Lithuania last year. It also has shops in Argentina, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland.



Shadow force: Part of a multi-national guard of honour at the opening yesterday of Nato's new headquarters for its maritime operations, the Atlantic Building at Northwood, Middlesex. It will house 224 men from 10 countries. Photograph: Brian Harris

## Labour to keep Red Flag flying

JOHN RENTOUL, Political Correspondent

The Red Flag, the musical equivalent of the old Clause IV, has been revived and will go ahead in curtailed form at the end of the Labour Party conference after party leaders considered a break with yet another hallowed Labour tradition. Plans for next week's Black-

pool conference, to be discussed at today's meeting of the party's National Executive, are expected to include a low-key rendition of a single verse of the anthem of socialism, as last year. Tony Blair has discussed with his advisers whether or not to drop what one insider called the "depressing dirge". But a party spokeswoman said yesterday: "It will be sung at the end of the

conference on Friday, as usual." The song is believed to be regarded by Mr Blair as an emblem of socialism, with its archaic reference to a flag dyed in the blood of "our martyred dead", and the raising of clenched fists during the singing. Last year this presentational problem was "minimised" by having a single verse sung by a choir, giving delegates little chance to join in. But ditching the ritual altogether would produce an outcry from many party members. One of the more upbeat advisers argued that that there "are no votes in [dropping] it". At last year's Brighton con-

ference, Mr Blair and his wife Cherie Boothe caused a stir when they walked off the stage before the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, the other part of the ritual which some party managers regard as evoking uncomfortable images of the past. Strenuous efforts were made by Neil Kinnock as party leader to shift attention away from the two songs. Peter Mandelson, Labour's media chief and now the MP for Hartlepool, introduced - unannounced - the singing of the more upbeat *Jerusalem* in 1988. But this process was considered to have gone too far at the

1991 pre-election conference, which ended with a medley including Queen's *We Are The Champions*. The blame for sounding a triumphalist note fell on Jim Parish, the former Labour official who also organised the disastrous Sheffield rally in the 1992 election campaign - although in that he was simply carrying out instructions from Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaigns co-ordinator. The *Red Flag*, to the tune of *O Tannenbaum*, has been sung at the end of Labour conferences since the party's foundation at the turn of the century. *Jack O'Sullivan, page 15*

## Pollution threatens Antarctic tourist boom

MICHAEL STREETER

It seems like the ultimate getaway from the 20th-century holiday. Five million square miles of snow-covered virgin land of Antarctica and the South Pole, with its penguins, seals and dramatic landscapes is becoming a tourist Mecca. But the dreaded P-word of modern life - pollution - has encroached into even this remote enclave. High-powered scientific stations have left behind abandoned butts, oil drums, computers and the everyday rubbish of contemporary life. Dr Bernard Stonehouse, a polar biologist with the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, and author of the first travel book

to the area, *Antarctica: the Traveller's Guide*, says that tourists to the distant south have been quick to point out the debris. "From that has grown the concept that Antarctica needs cleaning up - and it is being." "Many nations are working there scientifically and have left abandoned butts, piles of drums and debris. There have been aircraft, tractors, trailers, dog teams, cooks, builders and plumbers working out there." "They quite simply haven't bothered to tidy up in the past, but now they are being made to. Tourists and visitors have been complaining that they haven't paid money to see a rubbish dump," he added. In the past decade, the num-

ber of tourists to the area has doubled to 10,000. Intrepid visitors pay up to £5,000 to cruise around frozen land masses in the Antarctic summer and brave temperatures of -10C. Abercrombie & Kent, who organise tours to the area on the ship *Explorer*, say their trips are designed to be environmentally friendly and they are not aware of any complaints of pollution from their clients. The British Antarctic Survey said its scientists were extremely careful not to leave any debris behind at its exploration centres. "To us, Antarctica is a fantastic, unique laboratory and we do everything we can to keep it clean," said Dr John Shears, environmental officer with BAS.

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## No 10 stands by Clarke's accuser

Sir Nicholas Bonsor's position appeared to be safe last night in spite of his attack on the Chancellor.

He is known as a Euro-sceptic, but it is highly unlikely he would have spoken out against Mr Clarke without approval. Sir Nicholas Cosmo Bonsor Bt, 53, MP for Uppingham, has impeccable credentials as a Tory knight. Educated at Eton and Keble College, Oxford, Sir Nicholas was born into the Hambro banking family, he married the daughter of the second Baron Killeen, and he

owns 800 acres in Bedfordshire. Built like a prize bull, he was renowned for his strength at university, and was a rowing "blue". His closest friends include Sir Nicholas Soames, another larger-than-life hunting, shooting and fishing Tory.

As chairman of the cross-party Commons Select Committee on Defence, Sir Nicholas, a former officer with the Royal Bucks Yeomanry, earned a reputation for hard-hitting reports condemning the Treasury's cuts in defence spending, causing "overstretch" in the forces. He believes women should stay at home and rear the children (he has five). His open distaste of "screaming and squawking" feminists is not normally conducive to quick promotion at Westminster. As he demonstrated yesterday, he is not shy about pro-

claiming controversial views. He once rebelled against increases in top people's pay and opposed a government measure to control guns. He voted three times against the Government on the Bill implementing the Maastricht treaty. But John Major has plainly forgiven him all those misdemeanours. The Prime Minister's office dismissed suggestions that the Minister of State at the Foreign Office should resign over his extraordinary assault on the Chancellor. "The matter does not arise," said a source.



Safe: Sir Nicholas Bt

هكذا من الأصل

# Inquiry into cash paid in police sex case

STEVE BOGGAN

Allegations of sexual harassment within North Yorkshire police force - resulting in a £130,000 compensation payout to a "traumatised" police woman - are to be scrutinised by two separate inquiries.

The county's police authority announced yesterday that it was calling in Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, David O'Dowd, and its own auditors to examine the way the affair was handled.

However, following a five-hour meeting between the North Yorkshire police authority and its Chief Constable, David Burke, both insisted they were satisfied with their own roles. Mr Burke said his hands were clean and the authority said it had acted honourably, although it expressed reservations about police investigating themselves.

The force has been accused of paying off Libby Ashurst, 27, a former officer with the CID at Harrogate, and a colleague, Amanda Rose, who is understood to have received about £10,000, to suppress embarrassing details of the harassment to which they were subjected.

It is understood that a two-year inquiry uncovered incidents of bullying, strange initiation ceremonies and a raft of allegations of sexual harassment. In one incident, the women were asked by a senior officer to wear more provocative clothing, including stockings and suspenders, and in another, a male detective sergeant was accused of stripping and attaching a lost property label to his penis.

Several officers have been disciplined or fined or both, but no one has been dismissed.

After yesterday's hearing, Mr Burke told a news conference that he was confident the affair had been handled correctly. "Over the years many allegations have been made about me," he said. "None of them of a disciplinary nature have ever proved to be successful and that's what I would hope in this case."

"I certainly believe my hands are clean. I have tried to deal with this matter throughout as impeccably as I could."

Angela Harris, police authority chairwoman, said she considered Ms Ashurst's settlement - understood to include an £18,000 pension - fair.

"Miss Ashurst has lost not only her livelihood - she had a bright career ahead of her - she has lost her health and her self-confidence, and from what I read she has completely broken down," Ms Harris said.

"There is no limit on the settlements for sexual harassment at industrial tribunals, and we also have to consider the cost to North Yorkshire Police and the authority if we had gone on further, which could have been very great."

She said that the authority's auditors, Price Waterhouse, would conduct an inquiry to supplement Mr O'Dowd's, and added that she planned to complain to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, over the "inadequacy, inflexibility and inappropriateness" of regulations governing police complaints and discipline and expressing concern about the police investigating themselves.

After the award was made, Ms Ashurst's father, Terry, the principal of Doncaster College of Further Education, had said: "I do not believe the Chief Constable's statement that none of the hierarchy was involved."

"I believe the culture is pervasive of sexual harassment and bullying and I cannot accept that senior officers are so lacking in knowledge of what is going on at the various levels within the force."



Groves of academe: Pickers working yesterday at Manor Farm, Ightham, Kent, one of many fruit areas that has been left with a harvest but not enough people to bring it in. Kent orchards rely on students as casual labour but this autumn the crop is a crucial week late and the students have returned to university. Photograph: David Rose

## Workers on the brink of breakdown as Britain becomes sweatshop of Europe

REBECCA FOWLER

Britain's workforce is being driven to the brink of nervous breakdown, with employees working the longest hours in Europe, amid sinking morale and rising divorce rates.

The number of British workers putting more than 50 hours a week has grown by a third according to European Commission figures, with 1 in 59 people working more than 70 hours. The average length of the British working week is calculated at 43.1 hours.

Since the recession, and the "downsizing" of industry, companies have fought for survival. And with bosses continuing to drive workers to the limit - fewer people doing more work on less secure contracts - there are increasing claims that Britain is the new sweatshop of Europe.

Managers themselves are also suffering, according to Professor Cary Cooper, head of occupational psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, who claims Britain will face mass exhaustion if conditions are not improved.

He said: "We could withstand the Dunkirk effect, where people were all for working very hard to come out of the recession, to retain jobs and get businesses back. But in the long term people cannot cope."

"You get your economy going, but all the surveys point to the fact that people are extremely overloaded. If you are to sustain economic development you have to understand it's taking its toll, not only on the health of the workforce but its impact on family life. We also

have the highest divorce rate in Europe."

The first worker to win compensation for work-related stress, a social services manager, was paid £200,000 last year, after suffering a nervous breakdown following a fivefold increase in his caseload. John Walker described afterwards how overwhelmed he had become. He said: "Tiers of man-

agement had been taken out and the others were left to cope. I could do nothing for the people below me and nobody above me wanted to know. I knew I was making mistakes, but I couldn't do anything about it."

In Surrey, the Mother's Union claims the county has the highest divorce rate in Europe, more than 40 per cent, and blames the strain of commuting

and long working hours among its high-achieving residents for the marriage breakdowns.

There are few areas of working life that have been unaffected. The first national 24-hour helpline for stressed doctors was set up earlier this year; the Police Co-Operative Home continues to offer a sanctuary to overworked officers; while many low wage earners

are holding down three jobs at a time to make a living.

The professional classes are suffering too. Research earlier this year revealed lawyers to be so overworked they were considering quitting in droves. They described work as the equivalent of a prison sentence, and nine out of 10 said they were suffering overload.

In a survey of 400 companies British workers emerged as having the lowest morale in Europe. While the Swiss, Dutch and Germans appeared relatively happy with their lot, the British were the most miserable, followed by the Italians.

Roger Maitland, managing director of Survey Research International, which published the findings, said: "Britain has obviously become much more of a pressure-cooker. Everyone has one and a half jobs or none at all, and at every level of the food chain there is significantly more pressure..."

"In the short term we've become very efficient, and it's made us more competitive and the growth rate higher. What I'm arguing for is for Britain to sustain that growth on the back of satisfied employees. Human beings are like machines and they wear out if they are not looked after."

## Office well washes away stress

JOJO MOYES

Futons, fish tanks and a wishing well are among the features of a £20m new office building intended to provide the perfect working environment.

It is being built to house 1,000 employees of the catalogue company Freemans who will handle 25 million telephone calls from customers a year.

To keep them relaxed there will be Japanese-style anti-stress rooms equipped with futons and fish tanks for a "tranquil" atmosphere, glass partition walls which appear to have water flowing through them and a wishing well called "the Freemans Fountain of Youth". There will also be a gym, a professional counsellor and nurse.

A spokesman said the design was agreed after surveys into stress at work. "The company decided that because the new call centre is going to be handling virtually all

Freemans' business in terms of catalogue customers phoning orders in, and customer services, that the environment should be calming and relaxing," he said.

The large-scale investment in the quality of the working environment came partly as a result of recognition that the centre's atmosphere was likely to be highly charged.

"This will be an intense working atmosphere and Freemans' attitude is that if stress is high in such an atmosphere you're going to be losing more staff to sickness - it will be more of a drain than a motivator," Freemans believed relaxed and happy staff worked better, he added.

One of the UK's biggest providers of home shopping, the company has been in Sheffield for 21 years. In a Sixties office block considered ill-equipped for modern working practices.

When the company decided that it had outgrown the building several years ago, it opted to design and build a working environment from scratch.

"Last century, fewer than one in a 100 people worked in an office," Keith Bassett, Freemans' general manager, said. "Today, office life is the norm. Unfortunately, few companies have moved with the times, with the result that many companies are horrendous places to work, and drain, rather than motivate staff."

"Although in a call centre handling 25 million calls each year we can't eliminate stress altogether, we can minimise the risks. We've created a working environment that will offer our people the facilities and support they need to tackle stress in a positive way."

The building is due to be completed next Spring and is expected to be fully operational by the Summer.

10  
1986-1996

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news

Here's looking at yew ... for another thousand years



20/20 vision: Professor David Bellamy casting an expert eye over a 1,000-year-old sprig of yew in London yesterday at the launch of the Yew Tree Millennium Project which aims to celebrate the occasion by donating one of the trees to every local community in Britain. Photograph: Ian Walde

# Surge in crime gives lie to official claims

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

The number of crimes in England and Wales rose in the past year, with violent offences shooting up by 17 per cent, according to two reports published yesterday.

One of the studies, which is considered the most accurate, showed that crime has continued to rise since 1981, despite government claims that they had "turned the tide" in the past few years and offences were going down.

The British Crime Survey (BCS), in which 16,500 people were interviewed, reveals that only one in four crimes are recorded by the police. In 1995,



Michael Howard: New figures on crime are encouraging

it estimates there were more than 19 million offences, although in the past year the rate of increase has slowed considerably, with a 1.1 per cent rise.

The second survey shows that the number of crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales rose by 0.4 per cent - the first time this has happened in four years.

The figures were seized upon by opposition parties as evidence that the Government's anti crime initiatives were failing, although Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, insisted the trends were "encouraging".

News that crime rates are increasing is disastrous for the Government on the eve of the party conference and months away from the general election.

On the positive side, both reports recorded a 1 per cent drop in the number of burglaries and car thefts, but the big hike in all types of violent crime, including rape, is worrying.

The BCS takes place every two years and questions adults about crimes which have not been reported to the police as well as ones which have. Particularly common offences that go unreported are minor assaults, car vandalism and personal theft, although more serious crimes are also withheld.

In the period 1993 to 1995, for those crimes which can be compared, recorded offences

fell by 8 per cent, whereas BCS figures rose by 2 per cent.

The most worrying trend is the rise in violent crime. The BCS found that in most acts of violence, the victim knew the attacker - there were 1.7 million in 1995. Cases of domestic violence have also risen, with about one million incidents last year, according to the BCS.

The police records show a smaller 10 per cent increase in violent crime to 331,300 offences - the largest rise for eight years - in 1995/96. Offences of violence against the person, which make up two in three violent crimes, rose by 21,400 or 10 per cent. Rapes increased by 14 per cent. Robberies increased by 15 per cent to 72,500.

Fear of crime has dropped, with the proportion of women who felt "very unsafe" or "a bit unsafe" out alone at night falling to 47 per cent in 1995 from 54 per cent in 1994. The elderly are also fearful of attack even though only one in 10 victims of violence is aged over 61.

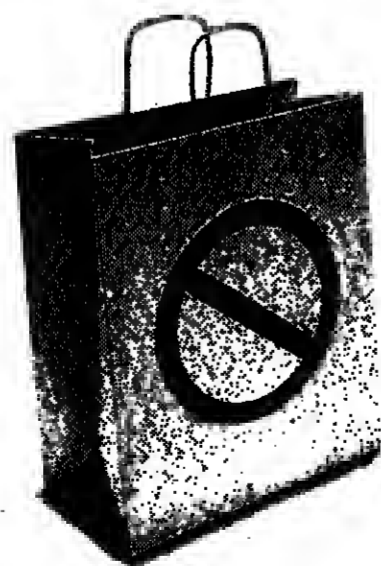
Twenty-four of the 43 police forces in England and Wales recorded fewer crimes in 1995/96. The biggest increases were in Gwent (15 per cent), Cambridgeshire (12 per cent), and West Midlands (8 per cent). Decreases of 13.5 per cent were recorded at Durham, and 5 per cent in Northumbria. The Metropolitan police recorded 11,000 fewer crimes.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, yesterday said: "A year ago, Michael Howard was trumpeting that the crime figures showed a real turning point in the fight against crime. I hope he has now discovered that empty words are no substitute for an effective strategy."

Mr Howard said: "My concern is of the long-term picture. Both the bulletins taken separately and together provide encouraging evidence on the trends in crime."

Polly Tynbee, page 15

"are you still making pointless purchases?"



## What's the point?

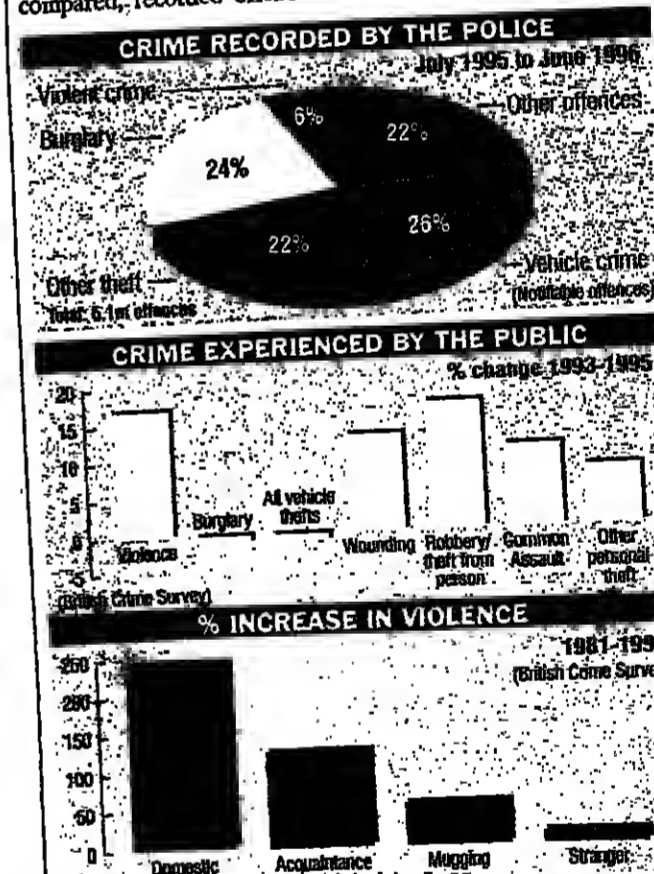
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## World Service may cut more languages

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

The World Service will have to close some of its language services if the Government does not rethink cuts to its budget, it warned yesterday.

Unveiling detailed plans to cut £6.5m from its budget for next year, its managing director, Sam Younger, admitted a further £5m would have to be cut unless the Government increased its proposed funding.

That could mean closing up to six foreign language services. Vulnerable departments are those covering Africa, Brazil and central Europe. The £6.5m savings in the radio and television service announced in March - following a planned cut of £4.1m in grant-in-aid, to £131.5m for 1997 to 1998 - will mean the loss of more than 100 jobs from a staff of about 2,000.

However, the announcement is not connected with the bitter row which blew up over BBC plans to merge the World Service news with other news

production, and which were made by the director general John Birt without consultation with Mr Younger.

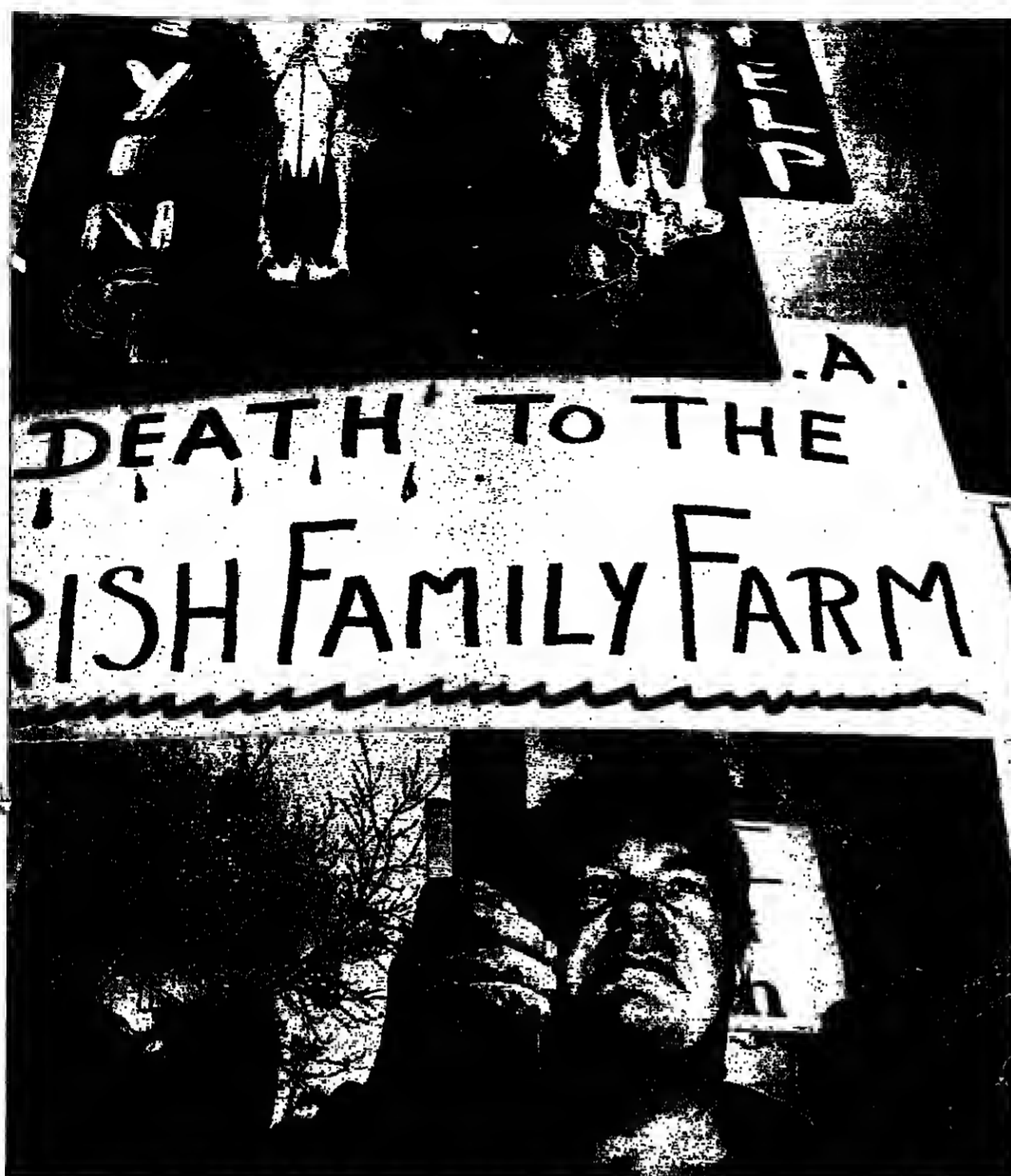
Such has been the outcry over both the proposed merger and the handling of its announcement that the changeover has been put on hold until a working party set up by the Foreign Office and the BBC reports on the issue next month.

"We have done everything we can to cut costs while protecting services for listeners," Mr Younger said yesterday. "We hope that the Government will recognise what has been achieved and look again at its planning figures for next year. If they are not changed, our only option will be to close the language services."

The £6.5m savings will be achieved by reducing services in some parts of the world. Cuts will also be made in central departments including finance, publicity and research offices.

The BBC World Service is funded by the Foreign

هكذا من الأصل



Madding crowd: Farmers demonstrating yesterday outside the hotel in Killarney. Photograph: Michael MacSweeney

## EU ministers corralled by Irish farmers with a beef

CATHERINE BUTLER  
Killarney, Co Kerry

Agriculture ministers including Douglas Hogg and the EU Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischler, were besieged in a hotel here yesterday by angry Irish beef producers.

Anger at the inability of EU governments to address the difficulties facing farmers and at Britain's failure to eradicate BSE, or "mad-cow disease", boiled over as news of another fudge reached what had been a big but orderly demonstration. Ireland's 10,000 beef producers say they face losses of £200m this year and they blame Lon-

don. The siege reduced to farce the efforts by Ireland, holding the EU presidency, to produce a charm offensive for the European visitors.

Mr Fischler was helicoptered out over the 6,000-strong crowd to get his plane back to Brussels and was last seen scurrying across the lawn, chased by a few mavericks among the mainly peaceful demonstrators. Police over-reacted to the threat of farmer violence or perhaps embarrassing publicity, by locking dozens of European journalists in the hotel's media centre.

Ivan Yates, the Irish Farm Minister, made his way outside to appeal for calm but could

hardly be heard. "No one is denying you the right to protest but I have an international group inside in this hotel." A huge roar went up. In desperation, Mr Yates roared back: "There are some women inside who are very upset." That drew an even bigger roar. In front of the hotel the stretch limousines waiting to take Mr Hogg and other ministers and their wives to Listowel Races were plastered with posters demanding "Action now!" Protesters chanted: "Ye go to the races, we go down the drain."

The Killarney meeting took place against the stand-off between Britain and its EU partners over London's decision to renege on a pledge to eradicate BSE by slaughtering 140,000 cattle.

Mr Hogg was the target of much of the anger yesterday. "Remove Hogg, sell our beef!" read one placard.

The Irish farm leader, John Donnelly, accused Britain of "ripping up" the agreement and urged Brussels to "put your foot down on the British".

Ministers cleared the way for the release of £400m to aid the beef market, which is close to collapse, but the farmers dismissed the decision as going nowhere near the levels of aid they need.

Death of a headmaster: Trial told of desperate resuscitation attempt

## Teacher confronted killer face to face

CHARLIE BAIN

Headmaster Philip Lawrence met his killer in a "one-to-one confrontation" before he was punched, kicked and stabbed to death, an Old Bailey murder trial was told yesterday.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, described how Mr Lawrence, a father of four, staggered through a crowd of pupils back towards the school where he collapsed after being knifed in the chest.

"It was decided to open his chest then and there in an attempt to save his life," said Mr Bevan. "An emergency left thoracotomy was performed to allow internal cardiac massage."

"He was operated on at the hospital from 4.30pm to about midnight when it became obvious that there was no chance of survival and he was declared dead."

Earlier, Mr Bevan described how Mr Lawrence had been at the main gate of St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale, north-west London, seeing pupils off the premises



In the line of duty: Philip Lawrence and his widow Frances

for the weekend. When he noticed one of his pupils being attacked, he ran towards the fracas. "Inevitably his reasons must have been to try and find out what was going on and to prevent injury to one of his charges," said Mr Bevan.

It was then that he came face to face with the defendant - a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons - who had become separated from the rest of the self-styled Triad-type gang.

Mr Bevan said the head-

master "adopted a non-threatening and conciliatory stance... Even if he had made a grab for the defendant's shoulder, which is the most anyone described him doing, it was no more than merited the circumstances".

The defendant then allegedly "slapped or punched" Mr Lawrence and kicked him on the leg. Producing a knife, which was hidden in his waistband, he stabbed him once on the left side of the chest just under the left armpit. Mr Bevan added: "It was wholly unnecessary, whol-

ly unprovoked, gratuitous violence for its own sake."

The boy returned to the gang "looking worried", Mr Bevan alleged, and "told the others 'I've made a mistake, I've stabbed a teacher'. When someone asked why, he said 'shut up it wasn't my fault, we better split up'". The defendant then went to an amusement arcade where he confided to a former gang member that he had stabbed a teacher. Later that night, a knife was found discarded near by.

Mr Bevan showed the court a 10-inch single-edged knife with a black oxide six and a half inches wide, the top of it double-edged. "Most of the cuts on Philip Lawrence's clothing had the appearance of being made by a double-edged weapon and test cuts in the laboratory using the knife produced similar cuts," he said.

The 16-year-old boy denies murder and two further charges of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent. A 15-year-old denies the latter two charges.

The trial continues today.

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## Shocking adverts lead safety drive

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

The Government yesterday committed itself to reducing child pedestrian deaths by a quarter over the next three years, possibly saving about 30 lives a year. But no new funds have been made available to help meet the target.

The announcement coincides with the relaunch of harrowing adverts showing home video footage of children revealed to have been killed in road accidents. Following the TV campaign earlier this year, the adverts will be shown in cinemas.

The new strategy attempts to place the onus on drivers, rather than children, to avoid accidents. Yesterday John Bowis, the roads minister, said: "In the majority of incidences, motorists should be able to anticipate



Speed killed: One of the children featured in the videos

situations of potential danger better than a child."

The advice in the strategy report, *Child pedestrian safety in the UK*, published yesterday, says: "The key message to drivers should be that they would not expect error-free behaviour from children in any other walk

of life, and that they must make allowances." While the UK generally has a good pedestrian safety record compared with its European neighbours, its annual average of 1.3 deaths per 100,000 children is nearly 50 per cent higher than the European average of 0.9. In 1995, 132 child

pedestrian were killed and 4,300 seriously injured on the roads.

Britain's higher rate is attributed partly to the higher percentage of children living in urban areas, compared with European countries, but is also thought to be due to a lack of town traffic calming measures.

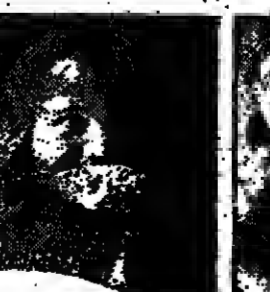
The report says it would cost £2.3bn to create enforced 20mph zones in 80 per cent of suitable urban roads, but that the savings annually would be about £2.1bn in reduced accidents - on DoT estimates of £812,010 for a death and £92,570 for a serious injury.

But while the Government accepts that the 300 20mph zones have cut casualties by over a half, Mr Bowis said he could not pledge an increase in funds. The extra £1m to help fund zones would come from the existing road safety budget.



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## news

## Move over Keanu, Paddy's on screen



DAVID AARONOVITCH

These must be balmy days for theatrical set designers. As if the proliferation of telly shows requiring bizarre sets was not enough (have you seen the rocks, rattan huts and swimming pool in *Man, Oh Man*), there are the party conferences the Lib Dems decided to order a nice little number based on an Imperial Roman theme.

So, at one end of the cavernous hall here at Brighton, they have built a votive temple in grey marble-like plywood. There are four pillars, from behind which a judicious use of fabric and lighting causes a golden glow to emanate. What mystery lay inside this shrine we were shortly to find out.

For today was leader's speech day. Even if you hadn't been alerted to this fact by the sudden appearance of hundreds of Liberal Democrat delegates, who had somehow missed out on the debates, the giant screen which had been lowered next to the temple would have given the game away.

The lights were dimmed, the show began. We knew (because we had been told often enough) that the Lib Dems loathe the presidentialism of new Labour, with its concentration on T Blair. So what would their epic movie contain? An illustrated lecture on the benefits of the single currency for exchange rate stability and transactional costs? Ales, no. You don't have a leader as regally attractive as Paddy, as crinkly-smiled, as blond and well-pectored, and not make a motion picture about him. So there he was, gazing about the country listening to people, in a film entitled, appropriately, "a leader who listens".

Because this was a movie, and because this is a newspaper whose readers are cultured and well-educated, I decided to decode the metaphor. So I noted Paddy the kindly patriarch, who was much in evidence, crinkling at kiddies and lending to ordinary citizens an ear that can detect an incoming shell at three miles. Paddy the action man was there too, boarding trawlers, digging coal and sweeping a floor.

But most intriguing of all was Beefcake Ashdown, a deliberate juxtaposition of images created so as to leave an impression of immense potency and allure. How else can we explain the firework that went off in front of his groin, the gushing hosepipe held at the hip, the lasciviously slow removal of the jacket? Don't tell me this was accidental - this was Mapplethorpe Paddy on exhibition.

Then, suddenly the screen went white and it was over. From between the pillars strode the hero himself; a simple military man, handed the laurels of leadership, reminding us about courage and patriotism. For what seemed an age he gave it to his party straight; made them face up to some hard truths. They were wonderful, he told them. Far better than the others. Nicer. More honest. Better at things. So it would be good if they won lots of seats at the election. It is to the credit of this party, that the delegates took these difficult thoughts on the chin, and still applauded their courageous, virile leader.

## Bullish Ashdown vows to put the backbone into Blair



Captive audience: Jane Ashdown listens to her husband's speech at the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday

Photograph: Tom Pilon

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

Paddy Ashdown yesterday offered voters Liberal Democrat hope - as an alternative to Tory fear and Labour timidity - with a clear suggestion that he could help inject backbone into a Blair government.

Evoking the Churchill spirit in a rollicking speech that gave his Brighton party conference a clear sense of direction, Mr Ashdown said John Major had left the country with no voice or leadership, a lion without a roar.

"This country is not the mean, selfish, uncompassionate nation the Tories have tried to make us these last 17 years," he said. "But the true spirit of our country will remain hidden, untapped, if the only choices we are offered is the choice between fear and timidity."

Fear was the Tory trademark, he said: "Fear is their only weapon."

"Now there is only one anti-

dote to fear - and that is hope." And in one of a number of specific attacks on Labour, he added: "Labour seems to have chosen timidity."

Repeating the refrain, "with the Liberal Democrats strong in the next Parliament," Mr Ashdown made a clear offer of help in guaranteeing that action was

**On the Tories:**  
"Fear is their only weapon. There is one antidote ... and that is hope"

taken on a number of priority issues.

With the Liberal Democrats strong in the next Parliament, he said, investment in education would be guaranteed, the welfare system would be reformed, environmental pollution would be tackled, there would be a crime-busting plan for each community, the country would

pursue a clear course on Europe, the constitution would be reformed, and trust would be rebuilt in British politics.

"We could, of course, go on ducking the issues for a little longer," he said. "We could decide that more money in our pockets is more important than more knowledge in our children's heads. We could stagger on with our discredited system of government."

"We could carry on polluting our environment, and postpone living more lightly on our planet. We could carry on fooling ourselves about our place in Europe and the wider world."

"But deep down, everyone knows the longer we duck these decisions, the higher the price we pay in the next century. "My fear is this: that we shall see an election, and maybe a change of government - but we shall not see a change of direction. We shall still be starved of clear vision, a commitment to change, the courage to face up to what must be done. It is the

first crucial role of this party to see that that does not happen."

"With the Liberal Democrats strong in the next Parliament, Britain will face the challenges that confront us. Without, they'll continue to be ducked."

As for his own vision, Mr Ashdown said that every single Liberal Democrat policy was

**On Labour:**  
"We may see a change of government, but not of direction"

dedicated to a central purpose. The aim, he said, was to help people "fulfil themselves; to find the hero in themselves; to become self-reliant and self-confident; to make, together, such a contribution to society that the nation as a whole becomes more self-reliant and more self-confident."

The speech was preceded by

a film showing Mr Ashdown as the leader who listens to the people - in what some delegates mistakenly took to be a mocking parody of Labour's 1987 election broadcast, *Kynock*.

But the conference was clearly delighted by a performance that gave coherence to a conference that had been left perplexed by the party's potential role after the next election.

Returning to that point, he said: "The great cause of reform is not safe in Labour's hands. Our task is to make sure this election is one in which the great issues are faced, not fudged."

Mr Ashdown said there was only one standard for success that he could accept. "And that is whether what we say, and what we do, makes Britain better and improves the lives of those we serve." He clearly sees the role his party can play in the next Parliament, and the influence it can bring to bear on a Blair government, as the means of achieving that end.

Leading article, page 13

## MacLennan warns against delay in pursuit of electoral revolution

STEPHEN GOODWIN

A Great Reform Bill should be enacted in the first session of Parliament after the defeat of the Conservatives, Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat president, said as the party endorsed what would be almost a revolution in the way Britain is governed.

The only pillar of the state to remain relatively untouched would be the monarchy - too electorally sensitive an area even for a party of professed constitutional radicals.

The Queen would, however, lose her role in appointing prime ministers, which would pass to Parliament. And prime ministers would lose the power to call elections. Parliaments would be elected for a fixed term and only dissolved early if MPs decided it was unavoidable.

The main components of the party's programme are familiar - electoral reform, a freedom of

information Act, Bill of Rights, home rule for Scotland and Wales, regional government for England and replacement of the Lords with an elected senate.

But Mr MacLennan tried to inject new momentum into the proposals, warning that delay was the enemy of reform. "The moment of possible change may pass," he said.

"If the Conservatives are replaced and reform is botched or abandoned, the opportunity may not recur. Blame for failure will be transferred from the faults of our system of government to whatever weak-minded ministers allowed the opportunity to slip by."

Mr MacLennan is trying to move on from general objectives on which there is wide agreement to the detail of reform and its implementation.

The reform Bill would act as a framework. Some of the mea-

sures it contained, such as a Scottish parliament, a Welsh one and a Bill of Rights, would take effect immediately. But regional assemblies would only come into being if the local population gave their consent in a referendum.

"That Bill would recognise that tinkering will not do," Mr MacLennan said. "It would avoid the trap of trying to reform part of our system without recognising the impact of that on the rest of the system."

He claimed the Bill would provide a solution to the "West Lothian question" which bedevilled the Scottish devolution attempt in the 1970s - why should Scottish MPs at Westminster be able to vote on schooling or health matters in England when the same issues north of the border were the sole preserve of the Edinburgh parliament.

Under the Lib Dem model, Westminster MPs from nations and regions that chose home rule would not be able to vote on matters transferred to their nation or region.

"With home rule offered all round, it becomes possible to slim down and make more sharp and effective the Westminster parliament," Mr MacLennan said.

The party's proposals for the Commons itself include reform of Prime Minister's Question Time to make it less confrontational, timetabling of legislation to stop time-wasting and a system for taking expert evidence on draft legislation.

But Colin Eldridge, from Newbury, urged more radical change. To end "deceitful yaboo politics" he wanted an oval chamber, push-button voting and the Palace of Westminster "turned into a museum".

Liberal Democrats yesterday voted for tight curbs on keeping handguns, ignoring a warning by the leadership and a claim by one activist that the party was grubbing for cheap votes, writes Stephen Goodwin.

Shouts of "shame" greeted Paul Weller as he argued against a motion on gun control framed in response to the Dunblane tragedy. "I don't believe, emotional as it is, that we should be, in effect, grave-robbing those children for votes," said Mr Weller, a member from Chesham and Amersham.

Dismissing any affection for the gun lobby, he said the party would be behaving like Labour or the Tories if it went for "quick, cheap votes". It was the test of a Liberal to protect the liberties of those one despised.

Mr Weller echoed the advice of Alex Carlile, the party's home-affairs spokesman, who said action should await the findings of Lord Cullen's inquiry

into the killings at Dunblane.

"What we should avoid today is a shopping-list before Lord Cullen's report is published," Mr Carlile said.

But two hours later the conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of a package of measures intended to cut drastically the 1.7 million weapons legally held in the UK.

It included a ban on the sale of firearms by mail-order, licensing the sale of air weapons, shifting the burden of proof for holding a firearms licence to the applicant and access to confidential information such as medical and psychological records.

But most attention focused on how hard to clamp down on the 200,000 legally-held handguns. By 366 votes to 357 the conference rejected a total ban in favour of restricting handguns to single-shot weapons kept at

registered gun clubs. Opening the case for a ban on what she called "boys' toys", Sarah Ludford, vice-chair of the party policy committee, said a total ban was supported by the Police Federation and a partial ban by chief constables.

Chris White, prospective parliamentary candidate for Hitchen, said he was astonished at the charge of electioneering. "It is a moral issue. It is not an issue of grubbing for votes." During a morning session dominated by law and order, Liberal Democrats called for stalking to be made a criminal offence and for a review of sentencing policy. The party is keen on the "restorative justice" approach adopted in New Zealand which gives more recognition to harm done to the victim and tries to persuade offenders to accept responsibility for their crimes. Offers of reparation are made at meetings between victims and offenders.

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IND2509



# Architects bridge the centuries for Thames prize

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

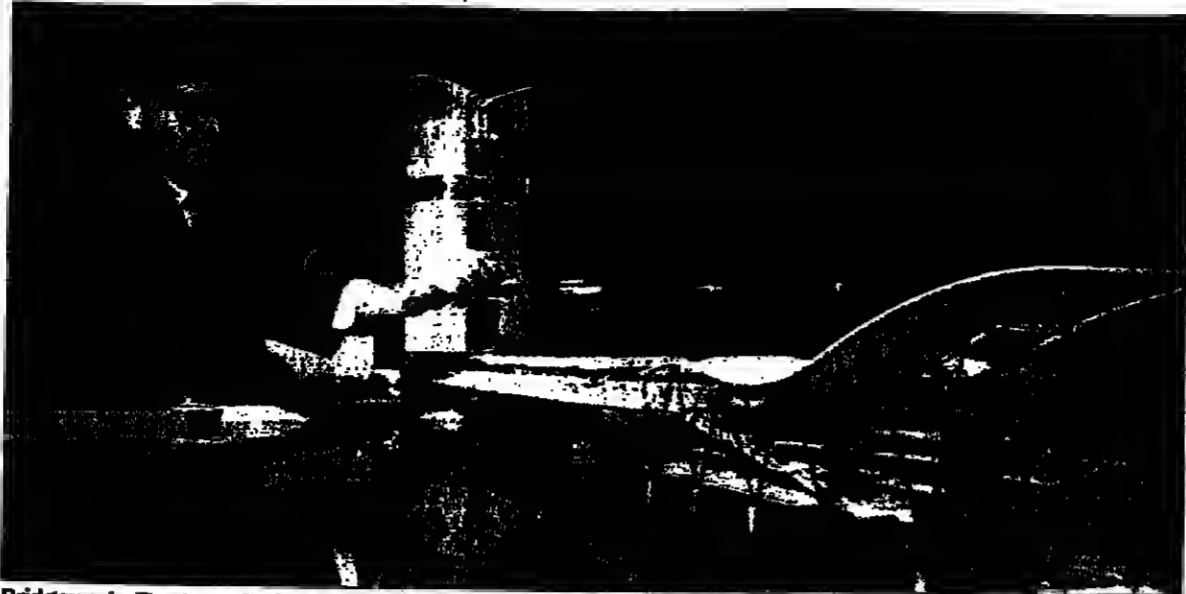
Zaha Hadid was yesterday named joint winner of a government-backed competition to build a new, inhabited bridge for London.

The move will help redeem the Iraqi-born architect's faith in the British establishment after her controversial "glass-necklace" design for the Cardiff Bay Opera House failed to win funding from the Millennium Commission. To her fury, it emerged this month that a member of her opera-house design team, Percy Thomas Partnership, had been asked to design the Wales Millennium Centre for the same site.

Ms Hadid, who won an international competition with her design, was quoted as saying the move was "a total farce".

But she was delighted to have won yesterday's competition jointly with Antoine Grumbach & Associates of France.

Seven international architects were invited by the Royal Academy to enter designs for the competition to build a new inhabited bridge over the



Bridge-work: The two winning architects, Antoine Grumbach (left) with a model of his proposed garden bridge, and Zaha Hadid with her 'transparent' design



Photographs: Peter Macdliamid

Thames, from Temple Gardens on the north bank to the London Weekend Television building on the south bank. The brief was to design a structure which would incorporate sufficient buildings - hotels, cafes, restau-

rants, offices - to make it commercially viable and to interest a developer in the project.

Ms Hadid's £70m design incorporated commercial space at either end, but left the middle of the bridge empty to maintain

river views. "It had to occupy the river as a public space but at the same time... remain transparent," she said.

In contrast, Mr Grumbach's £60m design centred on the notion of expanding the Jubilee

Gardens over the river. A huge tower at one end would provide commercial space. "I wanted to make a promenade over the water," Mr Grumbach said.

Although the two architects share the honours, any of the

seven designs submitted - or more than one - could be chosen by a developer.

John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has thrown his weight behind the project. "London's river is

our most under-valued asset and the time has come to value it properly," he said yesterday.

The last inhabited bridge over the Thames was destroyed in the mid-18th century. Originally a Roman pontoon bridge,

it joined Southwark with the City and was known for displaying traitors' heads on poles.

All seven designs go on display from tomorrow until 18 December in the Royal Academy's Living Bridges exhibition.

## Finn wins race for Rattle's baton

JOJO MOVES

A Finnish conductor will succeed Sir Simon Rattle, who quits in two years time, as leader of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The choice of the relatively low-profile Sakari Oramo comes as a surprise, as Mr Rattle's 21-year-old protégé, Daniel Harding, was widely touted to succeed him. Sir Simon was an unknown 25-year-old when he was appointed in 1980.

Mr Oramo, 31, a professional conductor for three years, is co-principal conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and his initial contract as principal conductor and artistic adviser will be for three years.

"It was an unexpected surprise and an honour to be invited to become principal conductor of the CBSO after only my second visit to them in July this year," Mr Oramo said yesterday. "I am looking forward to the challenge of shaping the future of this marvellous orchestra in my own way while maintaining the legendary good work of my predecessor."

Mr Oramo, who has conducted the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra twice before, will conduct at least 30 concerts a year.

His rivals at the top of a "very long list" were either unavailable or unsuitable, said Edward Smith, the orchestra's chief executive. "Sakari was on the list and when he came in July it was quite clear to everyone on the committee that this was the ideal man to take over."

One factor that apparently gave Mr Oramo an edge was the enthusiasm of the players after his two concerts with them, the first in May last year. "By the time he had conducted



Sakari: Popular choice of orchestra members

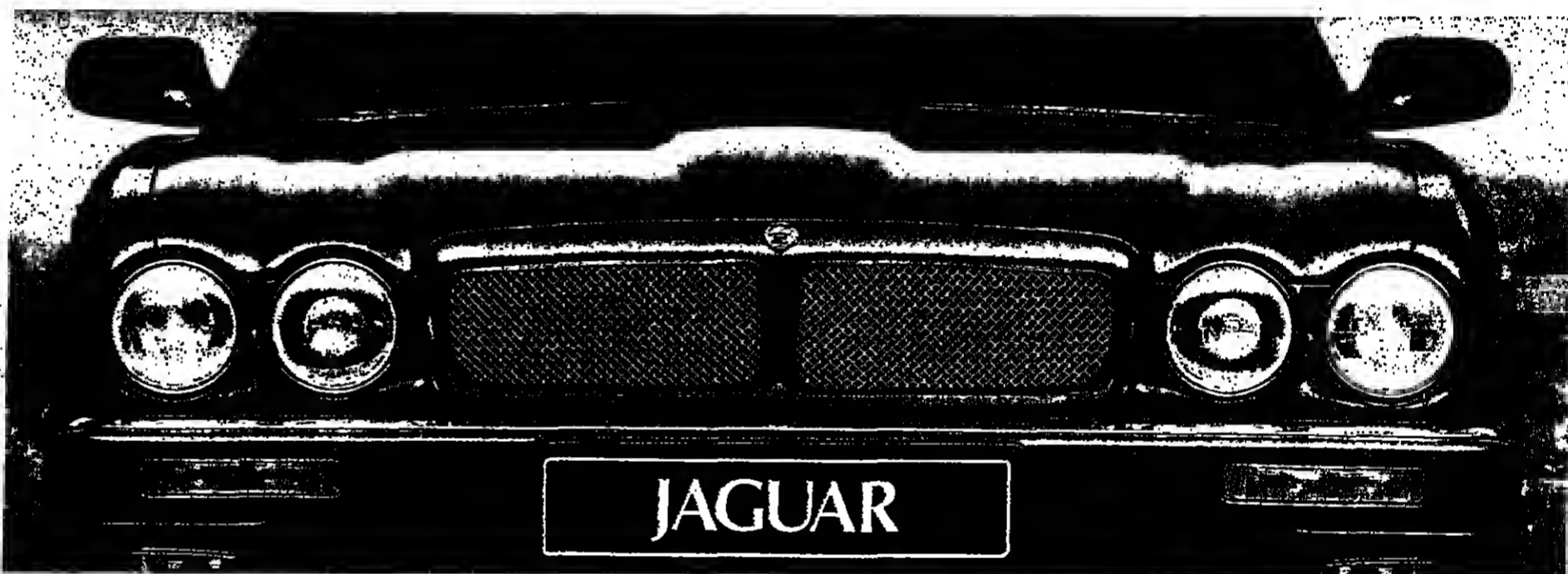
the orchestra on his second visit there was an extraordinary fusion of opinion that he was just the right person to succeed Simon," said Peter Thomas, the orchestra leader. "Everyone in the orchestra is very motivated to make a success of this splendid new relationship."

Mr Oramo lives in Germany, where his wife, the soprano Anu Komsi, is contracted to the Bremen Opera until 1998. The couple have a five-year-old son.

He made his professional conducting debut with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra at a few hours' notice in January 1993, when the scheduled conductor was taken ill. Since then he has conducted all the major Scandinavian orchestras and has forthcoming concerts in Germany, Switzerland and Britain.

The charismatic Sir Simon has built a reputation at the CBSO by mixing "difficult" contemporary music with favourites such as Elgar. He announced in February that he would quit the role of music director when his contract expired in 1998.

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both 1995 and 1996 by Fleet News, Fleet Car and Complete Car. (The Germans also showed their appreciation in Auto Motor Und Sport. The XJ Series won 'Best Imported Luxury Car,' again in both years.)

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### DAILY POEM

#### Trying Hard To Be Normal (for Spike Milligan)

By Adrian Mitchell

I bought myself a hairbrush  
A Military Hairbrush it turned out  
It came in a box marked Military Hairbrush  
I opened the box  
And took out the Military Hairbrush  
But there was still something left in the box  
I shook the box and brought out a brochure  
It was printed in every colour that exists  
The brochure showed me with diagrams  
And a text in seven languages  
How to brush my hair with the Military Hairbrush  
I was about to throw the box away  
When I realised there was something else left in the box  
I shook the box and out dropped  
A smaller brush  
A wooden brush a humble brush  
Certainly not a military brush  
Just a brush  
I looked for an explanation in the brochure  
And found that this was the brush  
With which to brush  
The Military Hairbrush

Adrian Mitchell, like Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Adrian Henri, is essentially a performance poet, but with a technique and delivery that transfers well into the published medium. Bloodaxe published *Blue Coffee: Poems 1965-1996* earlier this year. Mitchell is a maverick: anarchic, free-wheeling, furious and funny, and his collection is a treat.

# international

Rivals set to call for resignation if doctors rule out heart bypass for Russian President

## Kremlin fights for Yeltsin's survival

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday began preparing the ground for a battle to keep Boris Yeltsin in office even if his surgeons decide today that it is too dangerous to go ahead with a heart bypass – a decision that would turn him into a lame duck president.

As concern over the President's health reached a crescendo, Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, sought to dampen speculation that the President may soon quit, saying such suggestions were "out of the question now".

The Prime Minister – who would stand in as president until another election, if Mr Yeltsin leaves – was speaking after his weekly meeting with the President, who spent an eleventh day in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital awaiting news of his fate.

Today Mr Yeltsin's team of top surgeons will decide whether he is fit enough to have a bypass operation, and if so, when. Should they conclude that it is too risky, Mr Yeltsin's future will be thrown into doubt, as he concedes he cannot run the country properly without having the operation.

There have only been half-hearted calls for Mr Yeltsin's resignation, mostly from the Communist camp, since his top surgeon, Renat Atchurin, revealed the operation may have to be postponed or cancelled, and that the President had another heart attack shortly before July's elections.

Yesterday Mr Atchurin said the operation would not be put off, but could be postponed for weeks. But his back-track looks suspiciously as if he was pressured by the Kremlin, which is eager to demonstrate

that Mr Yeltsin, who was shown briefly on Russian TV, looking unwell, is still in charge.

Demands for his resignation would multiply if the operation is called off. Though vague, article 92 of the constitution says he must leave office if he is "persistently unable" to perform his duties because of ill health.

Mr Chernomyrdin's remarks coincided with a publicity offensive by the Kremlin, which said Mr Yeltsin was working on up to 70 documents a day, and was abreast with key international developments. The President's press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, denied a *Financial Times* report saying Mr Yeltsin has had a stroke and can only work for 15 minutes a day. However, he conceded sometimes Mr Yeltsin completes his paperwork in half an hour.

Mr Yeltsin's bleak outlook worsened yesterday when General Alexander Korzhakov, the former chief of the presidential guard and Mr Yeltsin's close confidant, made clear he was now backing his fellow general, Alexander Lebed, Russia's security tsar, as the next president.

"I don't miss Yeltsin," said the headline general who was fired in June. In an interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, he claimed to have evidence that top government officials salted away millions of dollars in secret bank accounts. Mr Lebed has appeared happy to be courted by the general.

The Yeltsin administration's efforts to forestall calls for another election are scarcely surprising. The latest poll placed Mr Lebed ahead by 19 points, with 34 per cent. Behind him came Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader on 15 per cent, while Mr Chernomyrdin had 9 per cent.



Market forces: Brokers trading shares at the Moscow stock exchange yesterday as shares were hit by fears over Boris Yeltsin's health. Photograph: AP

## Lebed denies threatening the West

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Alexander Lebed, favourite as Russia's next president, was last night frantically distancing himself from an interview in which he declared that Russia would take economic revenge against the US and Germany if NATO goes ahead with plans to expand into Eastern Europe.

The security chief, who has a reputation for being outspoken, was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* saying the two countries "huge interests" in Russia would "suffer directly" if expansion plans succeeded. "We will find ways to hit the pro-

ponents of these policies where it hurts," he reportedly said.

Such remarks will have caused alarm in the West, which will see them as further evidence that he will adopt an anti-Western foreign policy if he wins the Kremlin's top job. Ever since Mr Yeltsin appointed him Secretary of the Security Council in June, Western observers have been trying to work out if the retired two-star general is a hardline or moderate nationalist.

It will also cause surprise, as he has recently taken a more relaxed view of NATO's ambitions, pointing out that they are free to squander their money by expanding, as Russia has no plans

to threaten countries outside its borders.

In the article published yesterday, Mr Lebed's tone appeared to have changed sharply. This was despite recent signs that Russia is prepared to negotiate with NATO, even though it remains formally opposed to its expansion.

Mr Lebed also reportedly said that Germany's determination to see NATO and the EU push eastwards would place Central and Eastern Europe under German domination, and suggested "post-unification policy-makers" were "building a Fourth Reich". He blasted the Americans, accusing them of at-

tempting to control world trade "by diktat from Washington" and of acting "beyond belief, beyond logic" in bombing Iraq.

Yesterday, after being bombarded by inquiries, his press service tried to distance itself from the article by denying he had granted an interview to the *Daily Telegraph*, and saying the "facts quoted have nothing to do with what he has ever told reporters". It issued a statement describing the interview as a "fraud", and "a provocation... organised against a person who has stopped the Chechen war".

Sources at the *Daily Telegraph* said the interview with Mr Lebed was authentic.



General Lebed: 'Russia will hit West where it hurts'

## Bardot's book stirs cries of racism

RHIANNON LEWIS

The publication of the former actress Brigitte Bardot's memoirs in France yesterday caused indignation and brought accusations of racism because of her support for the far-right National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, and her comments about the Muslim community in France.

A leading anti-racism campaigner, Monclaud Aounit, declared that "Bardot has a discourse of hatred which is in allegiance with the ideas and ideology of the National Front".

She had, in fact, told the French daily *Le Figaro* that she "wholeheartedly" shared Le Pen's ideas "as far as the growth of this terrifying immigration is concerned".

Mr Aounit's Movement Against Racism and Friendship Between Races is convinced that her comments are serious enough to incite discrimination and violence against immigrants. They add extra weight to the legal action launched by the organisation against Bardot for the "provocation of racial hatred" following an article written by Bardot in *Le Figaro* in April.

In the case, which is due to be heard by the Paris courts on 19 December, MRAP is claiming 100,000 French francs (£65,000) for moral prejudice against the actress.

Bardot's support of the National Front may come as no surprise. She is married to one of Le Pen's aides, Bernard d'Ormale. But her warmth towards Le Pen has shocked many. In her book, she describes him as "a charming and intelligent man who is outraged by certain things, just like me".

She first met Le Pen in the Fifties when visiting victims of the Algerian war. "I don't think people should make him out to be evil," she told *Elle* magazine. "From what I have seen... he is very kind."

While she stresses that she does not share all his ideas, she proudly proclaims her nationalistic tendencies. "I have the courage to stand by my ideas," she asserted. "Either people like it or they don't. And if they don't, then hard luck."

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## Bosnia election fraud hidden by OSCE figures

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

The Balkan tradition of rigging elections has received a new lease of life from a most unexpected source – the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Apparently, in a belated and unconvincing effort to demonstrate that Bosnia's elections on 14 September were not riddled with fraud, the OSCE has changed its estimate of the size of the Bosnian electorate. The effect has been to conceal evidence that hundreds of thousands of ballots were illegally cast.

Before the elections, the OSCE put the total electorate at 2.92 million. But according to calculations supplied by a respected monitoring organisation, the International Crisis Group (ICG), about 259,000 Bosnian war refugees did not register to vote.

Another 381,000 who registered did not cast ballots. The maximum number of people who voted should, therefore, have been about 2.3 million.

However, according to preliminary final results issued last Monday, almost 2.62 million people cast ballots for Bosnia's three-man collective presidency. The OSCE abruptly announced that it was changing its estimate of the total Bosnian electorate to 3.2 million.

Even this would imply a

turnout of 81.8 per cent in the presidential vote, well above the 74 per cent who voted in Bosnia's last pre-war election in 1990.

"A comparison of figures suggests the turnout on 14 September was a mathematical impossibility," the ICG said in a report. "We have no evidence to suggest [major] fraud, but the discrepancies cast serious doubt on the validity of the elections."

Western officials who closely followed the election said they estimated that at least 200,000 votes had been fraudulently cast. They said the perpetrators were officials and supporters of the ruling Muslim, Serb and Croat parties, who either stuffed ballot boxes or falsified counts in order to secure victory for their parties.

The Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA), Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) and Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) each scored thumping victories in the respective areas of Bosnia under their control.

In the Muslim case, the fraud was sufficient to ensure that Alija Izetbegovic squeaked through to win the chairmanship of the three-man presidency. Without the fraud, this important post would have gone to Momcilo Krajisnik, the Bosnian Serb nationalist who campaigned on a platform of rejecting the Dayton peace settlement and uniting his region with Serbia.

## Leaders sign nuclear test ban



Friendly gathering: Bill Clinton (left) with Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the UN yesterday Photograph: Reuters

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

Wielding a pen that was used by John F Kennedy 33 years ago to sign a first treaty to curb the testing of nuclear bombs, President Bill Clinton yesterday became the first world leader to commit ink to the newly negotiated Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that aims to outlaw testing altogether and for ever.

Mr Clinton, who was in New York to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, was followed at the CTBT signing ceremony by ministers from around the world, including the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and ministers from France, Russia and China. As many as 65 nations were expected to sign the document at the UN.

Mr Clinton used his speech to the General Assembly to herald the new treaty as the "longest-sought, hardest-fought prize in nuclear disarmament history". But he also urged common action to practise "zero-tolerance" in combating the new dangers facing the world, including international terrorism and the trafficking of drugs, and to pursue reform at the UN.

Even until recently there had been fears that the test ban treaty was in danger of unravelling because of opposition from India, which complains that the treaty fails to set a date for total nuclear disarmament. The treaty was finally opened for signature by a majority vote in the General Assembly on 10 September. Technically, it cannot become international law until all 44 nations known to have some nuclear capability, including India, give the document their signatures.

While suggesting that the signatures delivered yesterday represented a "great step forward" that will automatically create an "international norm" against further tests, Mr Clinton appealed to India, which has not conducted a test since 1974, to sign the treaty.

Of the treaty, Mr Clinton said: "Some have complained that it does not deliver a mandate for total nuclear disarmament by a date certain. I would say to them, do not forsake the benefits of this achievement by ignoring the tremendous progress that we have made towards that day."

Mr Rifkind echoed Mr Clinton, appealing for everyone to sign the document. "It is the sovereign right of every state to decide whether or not to be bound by international agreements. But it is our firm conviction that this treaty is in the interests of all, and I urge all states to give it their full support."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway, told the assembly: "In the annals of history, it will be told that nuclear testing happened over a period of 40 years in the twentieth century and then never again."

The fruit of years of often tortuous negotiation, the CTBT should be the definitive offspring of two previous attempts to curb the practice of testing. President Kennedy in 1963 signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which outlawed all tests in the atmosphere, in space or underwater. It was followed by the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, which limited the size of explosions that were permitted even underground.

Mr Clinton's speech was delivered against a background of America's continuing failure to pay \$1.9bn in unpaid dues to the UN and of Washington's avowed intent to block the re-election of Boutros Boutros-Ghali to a second term as Secretary-General.

Mr Clinton insisted the "majority of Americans support the UN". But in a reference to the hostile ranks of Republicans on Capitol Hill, he went on: "Unfortunately some Americans... ignore what the UN has done, ignore the benefits of co-operation, ignore our interdependence with all of you in charting a better future." He avoided all mention of Mr Boutros-Ghali.

## Balkan peace force tops Nato agenda

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

The future of the Bosnian peace-keeping force after the Nato mandate expires on 20 December will be top of the agenda at today's Nato meeting in Bergen, Norway.

The 16 Nato defence ministers are joined by their Russian counterpart, General Igor Rodionov, as they also discuss which East European countries will be the first to join Nato in 1999 and plans to restructure the Alliance.

Ministers will try to reassure Russia about Nato's expansion, although Russia's security chief, Alexander Lebed, remains resolutely opposed to expansion and is threatening economic retaliation if it takes place.

The Bergen meeting will shape proposals for a new "charter" governing relations between Russia and the Alliance, for Nato restructuring

– which must take place in parallel with enlargement – and for the future of international involvement in Bosnia. Final arrangements for a follow-on force in Bosnia (Fo-For) will be confirmed at a conference in London in December. But the most crucial issue – what it is supposed to do – will be discussed in Bergen.

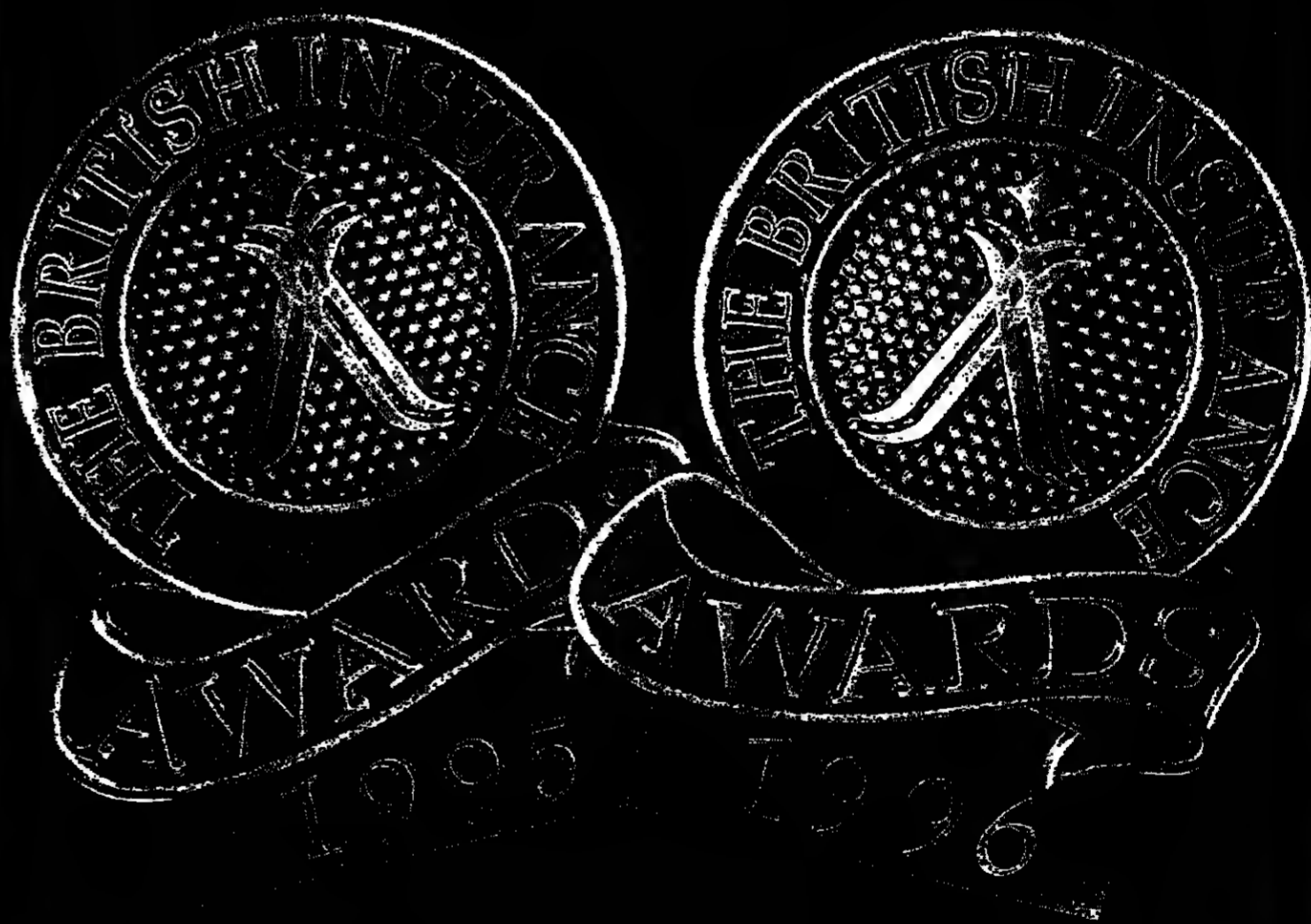
Nato and Russia will begin this morning with the international peace force in Bosnia, I-For. Plans to replace it with a smaller 20,000-strong force are well advanced, and on Monday the MoD announced that a British lieutenant-general, Roddy Cordy-Simpson, would be deputy commander of Operation Joint Endeavour, as the follow-on force will be called. It is likely that the international community will "certify" the validity of the Bosnian elections on Sunday. Once Bosnia has a "certified" government – however dubious the elections were

– the international community will have to ask its permission to maintain a presence in Bosnia after 20 December. Unless it wants another war, the Bosnian government is likely to accede.

Defence sources said the ministers meeting at Bergen would discuss several missions for Fo-For. The basic task of I-For – separating the former warring factions – was a success, and any follow-on force would be there primarily to back up civilian reconstruction.

This afternoon, ministers will discuss Nato's "adaptation" to the new world order, which involves a dramatic reduction in the number of Nato command headquarters, from 67 to nearer 30. Tomorrow, ministers are likely to decide which East European countries will receive invitations in the spring to join Nato by April 1999. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are the favourites.

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PAGEONE  
COMMUNICATIONS

12 international

# Jerusalem tunnel sparks Arab fury

ERIC SILVER  
Jerusalem

Palestinian shop-keepers in the old walled city of Jerusalem rolled down their shutters yesterday in protest at Israel's completion of a 400-yard archaeological tunnel which passes from the Jewish Wailing Wall under the Muslim quarter and comes out in the Christian Via Dolorosa. Arab youths clashed with police and threw stones at Jews praying at the Wall.

Yasser Arafat summoned his Palestinian cabinet into emergency session last night amid demands to boycott the next round of peace negotiations, due to begin tomorrow. The Palestinians' chief negotiator, Saeb Erakat, warned the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that he was pushing Israelis and Palestinians towards confrontation and disaster. "Such

actions," Dr Erakat told *The Independent*, "don't leave a peace process to speak about. The policy of this Israeli government is the full accomplice. Mr Netanyahu thinks the peace process is peace for the Israelis, but not for the Palestinians and the other Arabs. He is not treating us as partners. He is telling us we can go to hell."

Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry began excavating the controversial tunnel in 1988, a year after Israeli troops conquered the Old City, and finished digging in 1995. A door was cut at the Via Dolorosa end three years ago, but the then Labour government kept it sealed for fear of provoking the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and religious parties authorised it to be opened after the Yom Kippur fast on Monday night. The door will serve as the exit to a tourist and

pilgrim route, displaying Jewish, Muslim and early-Christian masonry along a buried extension of the retaining wall Herod built for his Jewish Temple.

The oldest structure dates back to the Hasmonean kings in the second century BC.

The Palestinians have consistently opposed the excavations. Muslim authorities feared the Jews were trying to take over the Temple Mount from underneath. The victorious Israeli defence minister, Moshe Dayan, deliberately left the Mount in Muslim hands after the 1967 war. In fact, as Dan Bahat, a former Jerusalem district supervisor of archaeology, said recently, "There are not, and never have been, any excavations on or under the Temple Mount." Palestinians were also worried about damage to medieval Muslim buildings still standing above the tunnel. None has been destroyed, but

some have suffered cracks. UNESCO has endorsed the Palestinian view.

The Israeli timing looks like another example of Mr Netanyahu's left hand not knowing, or perhaps not caring, what the right hand is doing. On the eve of his maiden visit to Britain, France and Germany, the tunnel-opening threatens to deepen European doubts about the new regime's commitment to the peace process.

It will also encourage Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab signatories to the treaties, to keep their distance. Cairo's criticism sharpened on Monday, when the Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister, Fathi Shazli, said Mr Netanyahu needed a psychiatrist to treat his "sick fears on security". In Jordan, Crown Prince Hassan postponed a visit to Israel, planned for next month. Amman did not want to be seen as Mr Netanyahu's only Arab friend.



Digging in: An Orthodox Jew stoned at the Wailing Wall by Palestinians protesting at the completion of the pilgrim tunnel

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## significant shorts

### Call for castration of sex offenders

Senior German politicians called for the compulsory castration of sex offenders yesterday, after the abduction and brutal murder of a seven-year-old girl at the weekend.

Natalie Astner was kidnapped on her way to school last Friday in the Bavarian village of Epfach. The chief suspect, a 27-year-old electrician, confessed to kidnap and murder and led police to her naked body in a nearby river. The accused is a known child molester, and the public were horrified to discover he had been released last year from prison nearly two years before his rape sentence was due to expire. Police confirmed the girl had been abused before being strangled. "We must make use of all legal possibilities to protect our children," said Bavaria's Prime Minister, Edmund Stoiber, who announced that Bavaria would back Draconian punishments for sexual offenders. In Bonn, the federal youth minister, Claudia Nolte, urged "chemical castration" for rapists.

Imre Karacs - Bonn

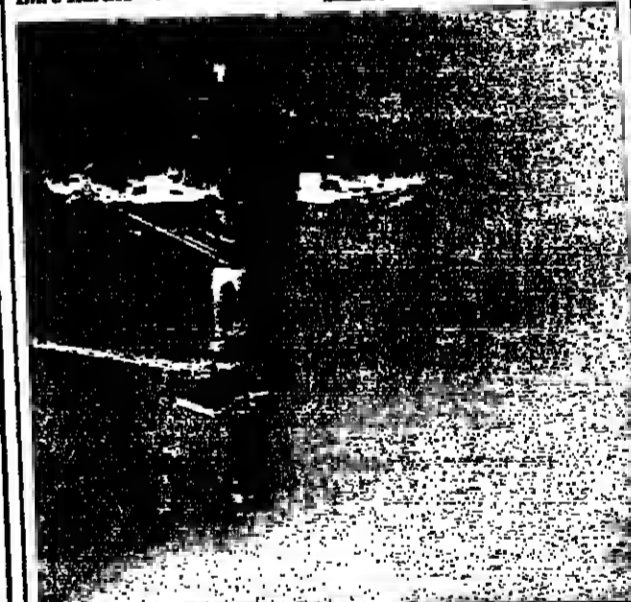
### Peter Graf to stay in jail during trial

Peter Graf, the father of the world No 1 woman tennis player, Steffi Graf, was ordered to stay in jail for the duration of his trial. Mr Graf, accused of concealing Steffi's earnings from the German tax authorities, has already been in prison for a year. "To lift the detention order we would seriously endanger the trial," the judges ruled, alluding to the possibility that Mr Graf would skip bail. The Graf's financial adviser, Joachim Eckardt, must also stay inside for the duration of the trial, expected to last until early January. Mr Graf and Mr Eckardt are accused of evading nearly 20 million marks of taxes on Steffi's earnings between 1989 and 1993.

Imre Karacs - Bonn

### Simitis sticks by his team

The Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis kept the backbone of his economic team when he named his new socialist cabinet but chose a different defence minister to oversee plans to



### US astronaut says goodbye to Mir

The space shuttle *Atlantis* left Russia's orbiting *Mir* station on Monday night carrying the astronaut Shannon Lucid. *Atlantis* and *Mir* formed the shape of a crucifix as they passed over Australia (above), before the shuttle undocked and slowly backed away. The 240-mile-high parting over the Ural Mountains brought Lucid one step closer to home. *Atlantis* is due to return to Earth tomorrow concluding her record-breaking stay of 188 days in space.

AP - Houston

### Kurds kidnap tourists

Kurdish rebels kidnapped an Iranian and two German tourists in southeastern Turkey, a Turkish newspaper reported. The rebels stopped a passenger bus near Bingol province and took away the foreigners after conducting an identity check early on Monday.

AP - Ankara

beef up the military. Yannis Papandonioun retained his post as national economy minister as well as being given the finance ministry. Simitis's boldest move was to remove Giannos Arsenis, an old-guard socialist, from the defence ministry and replace him with Akis Tsohatzopoulos. He challenged Simitis for the party leadership in June, and lost, but has since strongly supported the new premier.

Reader - Athens

### Belgian mayor on fraud charge

The mayor of the Belgian city of Sint Niklaas, a leading official of the Benelux economic union, was arrested on charges of defrauding the EU. Mayor Lieven Lenaerts was accused of using false accounting to secure up to 15 million francs (£300,000) in EU funding for an organization called the Union of European Middle Classes. Belgian anti-fraud investigators suspect Mr Lenaerts, president of the organisation, used the money for himself.

AP - Brussels

هكذا من الأصل

# Paddy must be honest about the voters, too

Leaders' speeches at party conferences are usually testimony to the craftsmanship of aides rather than revivals of the lost art of political rhetoric. A brief Cicero impression is bound together with a few lines fit for an excerpt on the evening news bulletins, a few jokes (Paddy Ashdown made a good one yesterday about dentists and the Labour Party) and a Theme. Ostensibly the Liberal Democrat leader's Theme was patriotism. All the nice voters love a soldier-in-a-boat, and he is surely right in calculating that the Liberal Democrats' brand of inclusive, international-minded patriotism is made a lot easier to swallow when audiences are gently reminded of his military record.

Mr Ashdown does a masterly job, moreover, of stripping the Tories of their pretensions to be the patriotic party. He did not even have to invoke Dr Johnson: all you need to nowadays is refer to one of those nefarious anti-European speeches by the Secretary of State for Defence. Let the Tories in their xenophobic, Pujadist stripes be the (English) nationalist party. A true patriot would not pander to the Tory press by pretending that love of country depends on hating others.

Good anti-Government knockabout of which, doubtless, a lot more is to be heard next week from Labour in Blackpool. Ashdown patriotism consists, by contrast, in faith in a set of national

virtues ranging from fairness and concern for underdogs to bloody-minded resolution to see hard tasks through. There were indeed times yesterday when Paddy Ashdown, when he wasn't Harold Wilson invoking the Dunkirk spirit, sounded suspiciously like a refined version of Morris Cerullo, able to see the good things "hidden away in the hearts of a million individuals".

The "moral majority" means, for Tories and American right-wingers, a glowering invisible nation, resenting policies foisted on them by liberals. For Mr Ashdown the moral majority is something very different: it is the good, liberal-minded (though not often Liberal-voting) people whose progressive instincts are crushed because of lack of leadership from Westminster. They wish for more and better education; they want their politicians to speak truth even about marginal rates of income tax; and so on. It is a beguiling picture of a middle England which recycles its waste before cycling to work. Perhaps things are so in Yeovil. But for the country at large it is a wishful picture. From it springs a dubious conception of the kind of representative politics that is available in turn-of-the-century Britain.

None of this should detract from Mr Ashdown's substantive points, especially his appeal for constitutional reform and his plea for greater fiscal honesty. The public finances are in a



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mess. Decisions about government revenues (taxes) need to be taken now if the balance between likely spending and income is not to move even further out of kilter as the century ends.

The Liberal Democrats are right, too, that no amount of fiddling with income support and family credit can substantially increase the work incentive for those facing a choice between a half life on benefit and low-paid jobs that can leave them worse off. A dramatic financial gesture is needed, such as lifting the amount that can be earned free of tax. That, of course, benefits all taxpayers, and social justice

demands that it be compensated by increased taxes on higher earners. The Liberal Democrats say that a rate of 50 per cent on those earning more than £100,000 a year would be enough to pay for their fiscal reforms. The numbers are arguable, but they deserve credit for being up-front about the necessity.

But it is at that point that Mr Ashdown's central argument about the essential goodness and fairness of the bulk of British people comes unstuck. If they were the paragons he implies, why have so many voted Tory for so long? The response, that political outcomes are untrustworthy because non-

proportional voting prevents the popular will getting translated into Westminster representation, is not entirely convincing. The fact is, as Tony Blair recognises, the political culture has shifted in recent years. Up to a strictly limited point, we have all accepted a large part of the Thatcherite agenda. It is going to take a lot more persuasion than Mr Ashdown offered yesterday to convince the comfortable majority that they should pay more tax.

Mr Ashdown toys with a possibly dangerous Manichean notion of political life. Westminster, he infers, is a sink, a den of dishonesty and fudge. The People, by contrast, see things clearly. They have no truck with compromise and dissembling. Yet the very basis of the Liberal Democrats' current political identity is that they are the party of coalition and consequent compromise.

Mr Ashdown was careful yesterday to couch his claims in terms of what the Liberal Democrats would do to temper the other parties, to keep them on the straight and narrow. That is indeed potentially their most valuable role. But what it requires is political gamesmanship, deal making, dalliance with the arts of the possible. Here is the Liberal Democrat paradox. The party helps make itself distinct by claiming to be holier than the others. But to translate any or all of its policies into reality means engaging with those other tainted parties. The Liberal Democrats

have a lot to offer, but their honesty must include a recognition that The Voters are not quite as wonderfully liberal-spirited and reform-minded as Mr Ashdown would have us believe: they are good and decent, in large measure, but they are also wary and inconsistent, and sometimes reactionary and mean. That is part of the reason why the two established parties make such good Aunt Sallies for Liberal Democrat leaders enjoying all the fun of the seaside fair.

## I'd rather have the weekend off

Fed up with your boss? Gaze at goldfish. Overworked and underpaid? Prostrate yourself, Japanese-style, on a mattress on the floor. According to one large telephone sales company, futons, fountains and fish tanks can help prevent stress at work. Ergonomic restructuring of the office is, doubtless, a good idea. But let's be honest. British employees have the lowest morale in Europe not because they lack fish and flowing water, but because they work longer hours.

Better that the signalman who worked 43 days on the trot should take a weekend off than have a waterfall installed in his signal box.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ground these absurd rules on borrowing

Sir: Your report on the possible privatisation of air traffic control (23 September) highlights the absurdity of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) rules.

Here we have a profitable industry which needs to invest to increase its profitability. There is an overwhelming case on safety grounds to keep it in the public sector. Yet PSBR rules dictate that public borrowing is bad for whatever purpose. The only route to raising the required cash is therefore privatisation.

Such a situation would not occur in any other European country, because none of them follow the ridiculous strictures of the PSBR. After all, the economic impact of borrowing to build air traffic control centres is the same whether National Air Traffic Services is a public or private body.

The same problems bedevil other parts of the public sector - the Post Office, municipal airports and council housing - which get most of their revenue from charges for services. Only those bent on justifying privatisation can reject the case for joining our neighbours in adopting more sensible borrowing rules.

JOHN PERRY  
Director of Policy  
Chartered Institute of Housing  
Coventry

### Celibacy does not denote holiness

Sir: Paul Valley ("A scandal but not a crisis for the Church", 21 September) is right to aver that Bishop Wright's misbehaviour does not rock the edifice of Catholicism. More's the pity!

This most recent scandal ought to rock Catholicism, in that Bishop "Ruddy" has been exposed as an archetypal hypocrite within a system that for centuries has colluded in the rampant deceit that celibacy denotes holiness. In Bishop Wright's case this has been to claim the fatherhood of a diocese at the expense of a 15-year-old son.

The Rev ANDREW P de BERRY  
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire

Sir: Celibacy - why all the fuss? Have not popes in the past fathered children to whom they presented good positions with landed revenues? And I remember when I was in Malta during the war the late Dr Boffa showed me an orphanage which he assured me was reserved solely for the children of priests.

In Italy some years ago I was having Sunday lunch at the Fior di Mare restaurant, in Numana (the Marche), when a furious altercation broke out at two neighbouring tables. A lady from Ancona accused another lady at the next table of having stolen her ring. The lady from Ancona was going to go to confession up at Massignano, a village where there was a young, good-looking priest. There was also a large life-sized statue of Christ inside the porch, with fingers outstretched. The lady from Ancona had given one of her family rings to the priest for the statue. And this was the ring she had spotted on the finger of the young lady from Massignano.

The carabinieri had to be called. The ring was eventually restored. The bishop in Ancona transferred



the handsome young priest from Massignano, where the red wine is particularly good, to a poor hamlet where, alas, the local wine is harsh.

R G J EARL  
Alton, Hampshire

### No hepatitis C risk from us

Sir: The article "Haemophiliacs 'denied clotting agent'" (17 September) referred to "3,000 - out of a total of 5,000 UK haemophiliacs in the UK - infected with hepatitis C to date". That could be taken to imply that hepatitis C infection is still being transmitted by plasma-derived factor VIII. Over the past 10 years, since we have introduced inactivation procedures into the production of plasma-derived products, there have been no transmissions of hepatitis C (or HIV) reported.

Although hepatitis A is more difficult than hepatitis B or HIV to inactivate, the facts speak for themselves: our products for the UK market leader in plasma-derived high-purity factor VIII and has had no record of virus transmission of hepatitis A.

It is worth remembering that recombinant factor VIII is not an "artificial form of the clotting agent factor VIII", as it is produced from living cells. Moreover, in the vial which the patient uses, a human plasma-derived product (albumin) is included as a stabiliser. Thus the product is not "artificial" and may not necessarily be "virus-free".

CLIVE DASH  
Medical Director  
Bio Products Laboratory,  
Elsay, Herefordshire

### Fight fairly on Internet porn

Sir: It is axiomatic that those who publish material on the World Wide Web or in Usenet newsgroups should not be treated more or less harshly by the law than those who use more traditional means.

Much of the SafetyNet proposal ("Industry moves to limit porn on the Internet", 23 September) is obviously intended in this vein. An essential part of the proposal (which is also referred to as R3, for "Rating, Reporting and Responsibility"), is that Internet service providers should require their users to rate their web pages so that those who use the PICS scheme can avoid the most offensive material.

PICS is a self-rating scheme, but in most implementations if it fails to rate a page causes that page to be treated as most offensive - making it invisible even to those who have set their tolerance threshold at a fairly high level. This is the way it should work, otherwise the innocent might be exposed inadvertently to unrated and offensive material.

The reliance on PICS, rather than a more centralised scheme with clearly announced standards, will inevitably impose huge costs globally on those who are innocent of publishing illegal material, especially when each separate web page must be rated in order to surmount the PICS hurdle. Those who are publishing illegal material

and who do not rate their pages will not be inconvenienced, since their pages will be concealed from those who would not wish to see them, whether rated or not.

Unlike traditional forms of publication, then, the burden of responsibility is placed on those who abide by the law rather than those who flout it.

MARK GOULD  
Department of Law  
University of Bristol

### Hungarian hero too outspoken

Sir: Adrian Bridge ("Bishop carries torch for Romanian minority", 23 September) is right to hail the Hungarian Calvinist Bishop László Tókes as one of the heroes of the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe because of his courage in defying the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu.

But his influence over Romania's large Hungarian minority is exaggerated. On regular visits to Romania since 1990, it has been made clear to me by Hungarians dissatisfied with their rights that the bishop should confine his public role to religious duties. They fear that his outspoken criticisms of the government, and sometimes insensitive comments about Romanians in general, will only create fresh dangers for the community he genuinely seeks to champion.

Bishop Tókes, like Lech Wałęsa in Poland, is an inspired rebel who

has found the transition to orthodox politics hard to accomplish.

What minorities such as the Hungarian one in Romania need is pragmatic leaders who can combine with reform-minded members of the majority group to promote the real political and economic improvements which Romanians have yet to see seven years after Ceausescu's demise.

Dr TOM GALLAGHER  
Department of Peace Studies  
University of Bradford

Sir: Jonathan Eyal's erudite defence of the need by Nato not to neglect Romania in the likely event of Hungary's admission to that organisation by the end of the decade (letter, 18 September) sounds persuasive now that both countries have agreed to sign an inter-state treaty.

Unfortunately, though, Nato's criteria for admission would still leave Romania without the right to join the first wave of new members. It also needs to recognise its borders with Ukraine and Moldova.

Until the Romanian authorities drop their insistence on including in inter-state treaties with Ukraine and Moldova a denunciation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a demand which is perceived in Kiev and Chisinau as a thinly disguised territorial claim, then Romania will not have fulfilled one of the three criteria for consideration of Nato membership.

TARAS KUZIO  
University of Birmingham

### A Green present or a grey future

Sir: Your leading article of 23 September on the Liberal Democrats ended with the suggestion that by watching events at Brighton this week "we may see the glimmer of policies for the next millennium". If you had reported on the previous week's Green Party conference in Hastings you would have seen a very clear expression of the policies required today.

A basic income scheme to provide for everyone's needs. A shift from taxing desirables such as labour to taxing the undesirables of pollution and profligate energy consumption. Radical action to combat global warming. Abolition of nuclear weapons. A Europe based on a decentralised confederation of strong regions.

If we are to develop a healthy, sustainable world based on social justice in the next millennium it will come from a Green perspective, not from the growth-obsessed short-termism of the three grey parties.

DAVID CROMWELL  
Southampton, Hampshire

### Iranian fighters

Sir: In a letter dated 17 September, Hushang Pirnia, whose name is unknown to us, claims to be a former member of the People's Mojahedin of Iran and repeats the old absurdities uttered by the mullahs' regime time and time again. The reality is that the Mojahedin of Iran have not had any bases or forces in Iraqi Kurdistan for many years.

HOSSEIN MIR ABEDINI  
Press Office, the People's Mojahedin  
London NW4

### Three cheers for classy judges

Sir: I met a very worried lady in my local last night. Her husband, she told me over lager and crisps, is accused of a bank robbery. It seems he was on the premises discussing business with the manager when it was found that large amounts of money were missing.

Mr Sikes underwent a long trial and, although found not guilty of stealing cash from the till, had still, in a second trial, to be cleared of robbing the vault.

Mrs Sikes confided, amid tears, that she had just had a chat with the judge involved. She'd explained to him, over a couple of Babychams, that she'd only just survived the first trial - "What with the kids and all," as she put it. She didn't know how on earth she'd cope with the second one.

The judge had listened very patiently to her story, dabbing his eyes with a tissue. "He was a real toff," said Mrs Sikes, "and I must say that all this stuff about people like myself being scared by such as him is just rubbish. He said he fully understood how I felt, and how Bill himself must feel, and though he couldn't promise like, he'd see what he could do. It was just the cards that he could stop this travesty, he said."

I left the pub considerably cheered. I've recently begun to feel very cynical about public standards in Great Britain. British justice, I now begin to think, may well be the best in the world.

TED BURFORD  
London W5

### Europe is on to Murdoch

Sir: Although Polly Toynbee is to be applauded for turning a spotlight on the threat to British television ("Stop Murdoch now or regret it", 23 September), she is not fighting a lone battle.

The European Parliament last week voted by a significant majority for a comprehensive range of policies to defend public service broadcasters such as the BBC. Measures it approved, which were put forward in a report by the Labour MEP Carole Tongue, include keeping major sports events on free TV, obliging cable and satellite operators to carry public service programming and providing proper financial backing for the public service channels.

The reality, however, is that obsession with deregulation and liberalisation has blinkered policymakers to the genuine public interest. Mesdames Tongue and Toynbee are rightly raising the alarm - but they are fighting phantoms for whom the market is all that matters.

TONY ROBINSON  
Brussels

### Early name fame

Sir: Perhaps the earliest person still remembered in a country's name (Letters, 19 September) is Ashur (Genesis 10:12) whose name gave us ancient Assyria and modern Syria. Whilst not perhaps the oldest known example - Canaan and Nimrod might perhaps claim that distinction - Ashur's name not only survives in our atlases to this day, but also predates Turk and Israel (Letters, 21 September) and exists in the names of at least two languages and three peoples as well, ancient and modern.

STEPHEN BAX  
Canterbury

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essay

# The signs are clear: the future is inequality

As markets become global and the traditional workplace gives way to cyberspace, only the elite will have anything to offer to the world's economies. Ian Angell predicts mass unemployment for the unskilled, and a slow death for the nation state

Many too many are born. The state was devised for the superfluous ones. With these pitiless words from another century, Friedrich Nietzsche heralds the demise of the nation state as we enter the next. The Industrial Age and its need for an over-supply of humanity spawned the nation state. But what is to be done with the glut as we enter the Information Age?

There will be no nice, tidy transition, rather a severe and total dislocation with the past. One thing is certain: the masses will not win in the natural selection for dominance of an increasingly elitist and cosmopolitan world.

Because of new technology the costs of production have dropped to a point where a billion new workers have entered the job market. Companies are globalising and mobilising, chasing "spot markets" in cyberspace. The costs of over-coming time and space no longer buffer the impact of cheap labour. The state has to be part of the global economy, so it is incapable of tending off foreign incursions. Mass unemployment is a cancer infecting every nation state, sending shock waves through their workforces.

The electronic transfer of money offshore has made tax avoidance a bigger business than narcotics. The next stop is off-planet banking.

Unhindered by national barriers, corporations will be truly global. They can communicate globally, and their shareholders, executives and employees are spread out across the globe. They will relocate, physically, fiscally or electronically, to where the profit is greatest and the regulation least. Their profits are declared in low-tax countries, while they continue to operate in high-tax ones. The global company no longer supports the aspirations of the country of its birth.

Companies large and small move. When a British plastics company switched its polythene bag factory from Telford to China, 150 British jobs were lost, but its payroll bill was cut by 90 per cent.

Despite all the patriotic bleating, companies know that to remain competitive they can no longer afford to carry a large and overpriced inventory of a national "people product" of varying value and quality. It is no accident that most companies are presently downsizing, delayering and outsourcing. Routine production jobs can be performed by robots or exported anywhere on the globe, so wages will converge worldwide to Third World levels. "Social dumping" is also dragging down wages for service work, a sector which is itself being increasingly automated. In 1994 the international Labour Organisation claimed that there were 800 million sub-employed people in the world; the West must now suffer its fair share.

Job losses are not the result of some temporary downturn in



PRIESTLEY

the economic cycle, but are the result of structural change. It is no good waiting for the upturn. Fundamental changes in the nature of work are taking place, changes as profound as when agricultural workers left the land for the cities and the whole fabric of society mutated. New work is leaving the office and the factory for cyberspace.

The idea of a job, born with the Machine Age, is changing beyond all recognition. Work is becoming increasingly casual and part time among the mass of workers. No one will protect their interests. Released from a single location, companies are free to ring the death knell of dinosaur trades unions. Middle management, too, is under threat. Under the euphemistic banner of business process re-engineering, companies are firing a quarter of managers. The motto for everyone is "add value or perish".

Moralising politicians use the fact of "inhuman" working conditions in the Third World for their hypocritical justification of protectionist import controls in their pathetic attempts to stem the tide, but large corporations will ignore their pleas. Even President Clinton can't control corporate America in its feeding frenzy over the China market.

Politicians, both the knaves and the naïve, want the abracadabra words "training in new technology" and "jobs through growth" to conjure up new jobs for the huge number of soon-

to-be-unemployed. They will never learn that technology is the problem, not the solution. Today, productivity is delivered by a technology needing only a few machine minders. National economies can no longer grow themselves out of unemployment. Growth has been uncoupled from employment. It is created by the unique skills of a few entrepreneurial knowledge workers, not the labour of low-grade service and production workers.

The continuous innovation of entrepreneurs is the real generator of wealth. Their income will increase substantially as countries compete in a global market for their wealth-generating services, without which states will drown in a whirlpool of poverty.

Innovation happens in self-generating hot spots with incentives that stimulate investment and profit. The very concentration of innovation acts as a magnet for established innovators and a spur for new entrepreneurs. But knowledge workers refuse to be treated as part of a homogeneous labour force, as standardised units. Talent, entrepreneurship, innovation – the great dividers of humanity – are dividers of economic success. Egalitarianism goes out of the window in this dog-eat-dog world.

The role of the state is to nurture, propagate and supply quality human raw material. Government is merely the supplier at the bottom end of the value chain that ultimately supplies

wealth, which is the product not of labour, but of individual intellect and determination. If a state cannot produce a quality "people product" in sufficient quantities, then it must buy it in from abroad; it must scour the globe for elite knowledge workers, no matter what their age, sex, race or religion.

This elite of rootless economic mercenaries will expect to pay less tax, not more. Governments everywhere are being forced to lower top tax rates in line with declining global levels. They will have to acquiesce to the will of global enterprises and their key employees. Tax credits, tax holidays and "regulatory arbitrage" will be the name of the game everywhere.

Politicians must find ways of attracting global employers in order to employ the local masses. If, however, the state maintains a greedy collectivist and populist stance, under the defunct motto "power to the people", then the entrepreneurial and knowledge aristocracy will move on to more lucrative and agreeable climes, leaving that country economically unviable, composed solely of the unproductive masses, sliding inevitably into a vicious circle of decline.

The power in global economic forces means that the tax burden is irrevocably moving away from the elite on to the shoulders of the immobile. When Leona Helmsley said "only the little people pay taxes", she was unwittingly making a prediction. Very soon

companies will be negotiating preferential tax deals, not only for themselves but also for chosen elite employees.

Politicians may promise, but markets decide. Governments are impotent as they face a triple whammy: substantially lower tax revenues, increased social security payouts, and the need to support "deprived areas". The books just do not balance.

The liability of a large, uneducated and ageing population is another major problem. The masses, with only a Saturday night lottery to soften the blow, will put economic well-being before the dubious privilege of electing powerless representatives.

The lights are going out for whole categories of employment. We are entering an age of hopelessness, an age of resentment, an age of rage. Whole sectors of society who previously felt their future secure can see it slipping away. Discontent is fermenting, and normally law-abiding citizens, who have nothing to lose, are being sucked into a culture of protest and crime. In the winter of 1995, French workers and students took to the streets against Alain Juppé's government in a futile defence of their crumbling health and welfare systems. But as the peasants were protesting in Paris, the "gnomes of London" were profiting from speculation.

The slow redistribution of wealth that has occurred over the last centuries is being

rapidly reversed. The disposable income of the majority will be drastically reduced. The rich are getting richer, and the poor poorer; the future is inequality. At the bottom of the heap we are witnessing an expanding underclass. The streets of London are again littered with beggars. The self-glamorising "New Age travellers" cannot disguise the fact that they are just a bunch of nomadic losers, whose survival depends on handouts from the tax-payer. Those tax-payers will demand restrictions on the mobility of travellers in return for their charity. The new Criminal Justice legislation is just the first step to the reinvention of the Poor Laws.

The state must behave as an economic institution, a national firm judged against the new economic circumstances. No state has an automatic right to exist. Government, like every other enterprise, will have to survive on the efforts of an elite few. It must represent success not failure; but in the Information Age, governments chosen by the majority are governments chosen by losers. The "will of the people" voting for full employment, a minimum wage and fair taxation is merely turkeys voting for Christmas. The politics of envy is suicide.

Democracy will degenerate to being the means of governing the immobile and dependent service workers. That citizens elect their slave masters makes their democracy slavery none the less. Democracy is an artefact from a time when the masses were needed. The big political question of the coming decades is how to find a socially acceptable means of dismantling democracy.

How can Middle England trust the present cast of parliamentary degenerates to lead us into this Brave New World? How can we expect leadership from those who get elected by kissing babies, and stay there by kissing babies? The Tories, apologists for an aristocracy, have chosen the wrong aristocracy: yesterday's rather than tomorrow's. Despite all the spin-doctoring, Labour is still the party of the peasants; and the global power equation is unequivocal – "the sum of zeros is zero". As for the Liberal Democrats, Nietzsche says it all: "the honourable term for mediocre is, of course, the word 'liberal'".

Who will defend us? Globalisation has shown the James Bond myth, where the state is good and global corporations (Spectre) bad, to be blatant state propaganda – a morality tale told by tax collectors. James Bond, the patron saint of civil servants, the thug of state, is now a geriatric. Goldfinger has won. The world belongs to the global corporation. The nation state is now desperately sick, and "a desperate disease requires a dangerous remedy" (Guy Fawkes).

Ian Angell, professor of information systems at the London School of Economics, appears in 'The Hollow State', a two-part documentary on the end of the nation state, beginning this Saturday at 8.10pm on BBC2.

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## Irnbu beat PVC Anorak on bar bills...

**Miles Kingston**

Well, it was another night of mixed fortunes for British football in Europe last night (writes our soccer pundit, René McCrit, safely back in his office at HQ) as some teams went marching through with their heads held high, some went creeping back with their tails between their legs and some are still stuck in an airport somewhere in Eastern Europe.

But perhaps unluckiest of all are the Midland maestros, M1 Wanderers, who came up against the Monaco champions, Sporting Casino, at their first lad stepped up and stroked it past our keeper, so then our second lad stepped up and blasted it home from the spot wide of their goalie's desperately outstretched fingers, at which point...

Yes, yes, but what was the result, for God's sake?

"Well, all the penalty takers got their goals, so then it went down to the spin of a coin, only this being Monaco, local rules say that you have to use a roulette wheel and, if my rudimentary French is accurate, we not only lost the spin and the game but went down £500,000 on red."

Goodbye to M1 Wanderers then. And an ignominious exit from the Cup Winners Cup last night for Isle of Man Cup holders, plucky little Douglas Fairbanks United, who have won the Isle of Man Cup every year since 1956 but only occasionally enter the Cup Winners Cup on the wild island card entry. They were unlucky enough to meet a Vatican Car-

dinals XI on top form and even more unlucky to have two men sent off for making unwise remarks about Scottish Catholic Bishops. The 6-3 scoreline more or less reflects the difference between the two sides, ie, one side scored six goals and one only scored three.

Better luck, though, for the crack Scottish team Irnbu United who drew with the Norwegian team PVC Anorak on aggregate but got through on the away bar bills ruling. "Aye, what a night!" said manager Kenny McKenny. "What a night! Ah cannae remember a thing! What a night it must have been! Also on a winning streak were the Irish team Roverdance United, who came out 5-2 winners against Danish amateurs Ole Membrane. Here's Jim Dobsoo with the details.

"Well, René, I think you've got that a bit wrong there, because Ole Membrane is in fact Roverdance's new Danish left back, and they were in fact playing the crack Turkish Second Division team Kurds Park Rangers in an enthralling contest which swayed first one way and then, hold on, I've got my ootes somewhere, and then swayed, hold on...."

We'll get back to Jim Dobsoo as soon as he's got his ootes sorted out. Meanwhile the sparkling Cumbrian side Melvyn Bragg Casuals were in action last night against Umberto Eco's Structuralists, and here is one of the exciting moments from last night's encounter.

"So, if I've got that right, and I speak only as a recent convert to science, this may explain how tomatoes can double in size in one generation, but it doesn't really explain how Mozart wrote his greatest works, does it? So there may be a god after all? Yes, Alison, do you want to come in?"

Yes, well, perhaps not one of the most exciting moments, but fairly typical, I think.

Other results in brief: **EUROPEAN GAME NAME CUP** Keele 1 Kiel 1. **Bury 1 Berry 1**. **Barry Town 1 Bari Town 1** (Bari through on fewer letters rule). **EUROPEAN RHYMING CUP** Yeovil 2 Deauville 2.

هكذا من الأصل

## Crime is up! Hit the moral panic button

I was tempted yesterday morning to break into a broad grin on hearing the annual crime figures – up again! The sound of the Home Secretary wriggling on the radio will have generated many a gleeful smirk amongst all those toilers in the world of crime and punishment driven to despair by his policies. Crime up? Ha ha ha!

What is he to say to the Tory Conference in a fortnight's time, eh? Michael Howard has crowed that his tough policies work – 25 per cent more in prison – because the recorded crime figures dipped for three consecutive years. (Though the far more reliable British Crime Survey continued to show a steady upward climb.) But those who live by lies shall die by lies: the figures were complete bunk and hocus. By the same token, though, yesterday's figures are also bunk and hocus, for we do not know what the real crime rate is, nor even how it fluctuates. Of all government statistics the most meadacious are the police crime figures.

Erratically, they record changes in social and policing habits rather than crimes committed. The great mythical "crime waves" of the Seventies and Eighties coincided with a huge escalation in the number of people with insurance policies. (Those without rarely bother to report thefts.) A rapid rise in telephone ownership made reporting crime more common. Similarly, installing answerphones instead of policemen in rural police stations meant fewer people bothered to report rural crimes. Crime figures wobble wildly according to police priorities, the law and the courts: have rape and sex crimes really risen, or just the reporting of them? Police trying to improve their clear-up rate reduce their recording of unsolvable crimes, while police bidding for more manpower try to increase them.

But 5.1 million crimes? That is a great many (and there are an estimated three times more unreported). How frightened should we be? Burglary is deeply distressing, but what really alarms us is violence from strangers – yet that is rare and has risen the least. Ninety-three per cent of crime is against property. Only 6 per cent of crime is violent, and only a tiny 0.6 per cent of that is serious. A quarter of serious assaults are domestic, while babies are the most common murder victims. Crime is highly concentrated – many areas having virtually none, while 70 per cent of crimes happen to those who have suffered already that same year.

Fear of crime is higher in Britain than in most of Europe – although "assault with force" rates are among the lowest: Germany and Holland are almost twice as high. Unwarranted fear keeps the old indoors,



Polly Toynbee

Exploring the outer limits of human evil, we peer into our own dark souls and pleasurably frighten ourselves with our potential for sin

small part of life, we have always been disproportionately fascinated with it – in literature, films, television, and gruesome cases that sell newspapers. Exploring the outer limits of human evil, we peer into our own dark souls and pleasurably frighten ourselves with our potential for sin. As a society, casting out transgressors defines ourselves and our values. But that fascination is starting to run riot. Reasonable concern is turning into a moral panic that obscures any real understanding of the society we live in – largely prosperous, happy, peaceful and better educated than ever – but with some grave and intractable problems: poverty, unemployment, underachievement and, yes, crime. To solve them we need to study what works, how to prevent the worst and encourage the best – not wallow in a morass of despair. Moral hysteria breeds paralysis or, worse, it generates the sort of useless punitive remedies prescribed by Michael Howard to please the frightened crowds.

women out of public transport and makes parents overprotect their children.

But worse still, it grips the nation with moral panic. Whenever some young brute clocks up a hundred crimes, a child is cruelly slaughtered, or a teacher stabbed, the wall goes up, "What is becoming of us?" The smell of fear is in the air.

Keeping things in proportion gets harder as the abuse or willful ignorance of statistics grows. For instance, the number of homicides is almost exactly the same now as it was in 1857, at around 13 per million of the population. The rate has stayed broadly flat since the mid-1970s (and murder is the most reliable statistic). That does not sound very frightening. But if you prefer to be terrified, try this: in 1918 there were only 80,000 recorded indictable offences – now it is five million. Crime is serious and people are right to be angry, for we all have our anecdotes and there are a multitude of causes and solutions over which we can all argue. Some might cry terminal sin, single parents or the like. I would point to European figures showing how theft and burglary rates track the graph of boom and bust, going up and down with unemployment.

For crime is the flip side of mass prosperity in a grossly unequal society. Believers in our moral decline point out that in the depressed but morally better 1930s there was little theft. But that comparison makes no sense: then a huge homogeneous poor working class had nothing – nothing to envy and nothing to steal. Now there is virtually no working class, only a deprived underclass and a huge well-off class parading its Nike trainers and designer label clothes in front of the noses of the wretched young have-nothings.

Although crime is only a small part of life, we have always been disproportionately fascinated with it – in literature, films, television, and gruesome cases that sell newspapers. Exploring the outer limits of human evil, we peer into our own dark souls and pleasurably frighten ourselves with our potential for sin. As a society, casting out transgressors defines ourselves and our values. But that fascination is starting to run riot. Reasonable concern is turning into a moral panic that obscures any real understanding of the society we live in – largely prosperous, happy, peaceful and better educated than ever – but with some grave and intractable problems: poverty, unemployment, underachievement and, yes, crime. To solve them we need to study what works, how to prevent the worst and encourage the best – not wallow in a morass of despair. Moral hysteria breeds paralysis or, worse, it generates the sort of useless punitive remedies prescribed by Michael Howard to please the frightened crowds.

## Where have all the nurses gone?

By Christine Hancock



A localised pay system keeps their wages down, but their skills are in greater demand than ever. And they are disappearing

At last it's official. The health service has too few nurses. We are facing a recruitment crisis that could stretch well into the next century. After two years' remembrance of television's *The X-Files*, during which the Government denied all knowledge, it now admits that we have a problem.

Nurses have warned of it for some time. A survey released today by the Royal College of Nursing proves it. By the year 2000 a quarter of all registered nurses will have reached retirement age, while the number of nursing students has dropped by 39 per cent in eight years.

Yet demand for nurses is rising sharply. Although NHS demand has remained relatively unchanged, there has been a massive increase from independent providers such as nursing homes. They employ 26 per cent of all registered nurses. Ten years ago this figure was only 8 per cent. In the NHS, too, demand is now expected to start rising.

The facts about nursing shortages speak for themselves. We all know of someone whose operation has been cancelled, someone who has been waiting on a list for years, or has been turned away from hospital because a bed can't be found. Roughly translated, that means there aren't enough nurses.

What has the Government done so far to alleviate the shortages? First, it denied the shortages. Next, it began to reinstate some of the lost training places for nurses. But its main contribution was to introduce a system of local pay which forces nurses to negotiate with their managers. This year, nurses were awarded a national increase of 2 per cent. The Government said it had high hopes that this would be topped up locally.

In fact, only a tiny percentage has received anything more than 2 per cent. Doctors, meanwhile, received 6 per cent and MPs will get 26 per cent. Both have national awards. Nursing's pay review body, unlike that of the MPs, has not considered the consequences for the nation's health of a prolonged recruitment crisis. Nor has it considered the amount nurses receive compared with other professions.

Nurses still lag well behind all comparable professions. While a newly qualified staff nurse earns less than £12,000 a year, a police constable gets £14,500. Meanwhile, a ward sister with several years' experience often earns £6,000 less

than a police sergeant. Two-thirds of nurses questioned in today's survey believe that they would be paid more for less effort if they left nursing altogether. And last year 6 per cent did just that.

The Government has forgotten what Mrs Thatcher knew. She established the review body to avoid unrest. She was reluctant to continue a war with nurses because she knew the enormous public support that nursing enjoys.

She was right. Looking ahead to the next election, if we go by today's opinion polls,

then the Labour Party should now learn from the Government's mistakes. The RCN has never been in a situation in which it has opened up so much clear water between the parties. By demanding a national award for nurses set by an independent review body, we have distanced ourselves from the Government. Ironically, at the same time, New Labour is reluctant to make any commitment. If the Labour Party wants peaceful, constructive relationships with the largest professional group in health care to ensure the highest standards

of patient care, it should commit itself to a national award for nurses. Not out of old-fashioned principle, nor because we have a National Health Service, but because it makes sense to treat nursing as a national professional group.

For other health service employees, local pay and local labour markets may make sense. But nurses and similar professionals receive intensive training for three years or more. A growing number are graduates. You can't attract more people into nursing at the drop of a hat, nor by offering

them a few more pounds that they have to negotiate for.

Nurses are a valuable national asset, trained to the same high standards throughout the country. A national perspective on the recruitment and retention of nurses must now go hand-in-hand with a system of national pay.

Today, nurses everywhere are taking on new roles and responsibilities. In hospitals, nurses are working alongside surgeons where it makes sense. Reports of nurses carrying out minor operations have not led to howls of protest from patients, because, frankly, patients feel safer when there's a registered nurse around. In the community, many nurses are working in partnership with GPs, taking on such tasks as vaccinations, intensive home nursing care, and running well-women and well-men clinics. We have to ensure that there are enough nurses to deliver these services. This will never be achieved through local pay. Today's survey shows that nurses who have left nursing or who intend to leave blame local pay for their decision.

Nurses want a commitment to a system of national pay. Nothing else will do. If we don't get it, anger and unrest might be among the least of the Government's problems.

Some trusts are already looking at alternative arrangements because they can't get enough nurses. We have seen attempts to train other health workers – including cleaners – to carry out nursing duties. The nightmare of calling for a nurse and being attended to by a cleaner has understandably unsettled patients and the public.

Such initiatives do signal a move towards lowest-common-denominator health care. Yet today, some nurses are undertaking part of their training with doctors and therapists. Nurses and doctors are now beginning to understand which treatments work and why. This knowledge is crucial. If we are to provide the best cost-effective care in the future we cannot put these innovations at risk.

As we approach the general election, might I suggest a slogan that will mean something to the public? It is this: "Whenever you need it, you will be cared for by a registered nurse." I guarantee you will get a reaction – not least from more than half a million nurses, as well as the families and patients who depend on them.

The writer is general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

### OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT  
Day eight

Think-tanks  
They bear menaces rather than gifts – but new Labour is welcoming their ideas  
By Peter Popham

Why can't Labour win general elections? One explanation is that Mrs Thatcher seized the intellectual initiative for the right back in the early Eighties, and the left has never managed to seize it back. Until it does so – until it discovers a Big Idea to rival the one that worked so well for her – it is doomed to limp along behind the Tories, at best offering a new set of faces.

Think-tankers have nothing of the Establishment about them – neither classic genes, nor wealth, nor great address books, nor (necessarily) solid gold educations. What they have to offer is less in the way of gift-offerings than menaces: the "flying objects", as the late Richard Crossman put it, "that really terrify politicians' new ideas". Yet they are welcome at the feast: the bearers of new ideas are becoming prominent and are being feted in the Labour party as never before.

The left's intellectual fight back began with the setting up of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) back in 1988: a laborious name – in its logo the two "p"s are question marks – for what is disdained by its rivals as a doggedly Labourist outfit, too shackled to traditional Labour positions to come up with anything startlingly novel. IPPR basked under Kimock's sun, but with his departure it found itself cast into the shade. Big Ideas remained elusive.

Perhaps there was more to be learned from those to whom Mrs Thatcher was not merely the devil incarnate. Two years ago some 95 intellectuals from all corners of the Left and none got together at Frederick's restaurant in Islington (Cherie Blair celebrated her 40th birthday there) to launch Demos, a think-tank which was to be genuinely open-minded: open to right ideas as well as left, and to experience from elsewhere (especially America). Demos got off to a splendid start when the *Daily Mail* derided it as "a ragtag band of one-time Communists, Hampstead socialists and quasi-experts", and it hasn't looked back.

Its director, Geoff Mulgan, who is 32 but looks much younger, is a plausible specimen of post-Thatcherite man: blond, well-suited, personable enough to have the £100,000 needed to get the thing

going. "He's the most brilliant person I've ever met," says a former associate, and he's nice with it. Like many of the brainy young, he's a graduate both of Balliol College, Oxford, and of Gordon Brown's office, where he worked from 1990 to 1992. He still has the great man's ear. Dennis Stevenson, chairman of the trustees at the Tate Gallery and a burgeoning New Establishment figure himself, is likewise a fan.

And in its first years, Demos has built a formidable head of steam, tackling issues as particular as dentists and heating contractors, and as big as social democracy.

The problem is, it's so uninhibited. So when it turns its attention to social democracy, for example, its chosen sage, the former Thatcherite John Gray, declares (in his pamphlet *After Social Democracy*) "the central economic programme of social democracy is unwelcome and social democracy itself a bankrupt project."

Hardly helpful. Demos is dynamic, but you can never be totally sure where or whom it is going to blow up. But if that dog won't hunt, there's always the Fabian Society to fall back on. In contrast to IPPR and others that have sprouted in the wilderness years, the Fabians go back to the glory days – to the Webbs and George Bernard Shaw. Even today, all but two members of Labour's front bench belong to it. The only problem is (people say) it's at its last gasp. But now a highly promising new general secretary has been appointed to administer first aid.

You don't need to be a reckless gambler to bet that Stephen Twigg (pictured) is a man to watch. Only 29, with the amiable, artless look of a large, startled hedgehog, he's another Balliol man, and went on to become president of the National Union of Students. Since then he has rarely put a foot wrong: he has been councillor, then deputy leader of Islington council, and research assistant to Margaret Hodge, the Blair's neighbour and confidant who is the new MP for Barking. At the general election Twigg will stand against Michael Portillo, and if he is unlikely to erase Portillo's 16,000 majority (he is openly gay, which may not help), he is at least likely to raise his profile a useful notch or two.

Twigg, like everybody else, is keen to discover that Big Idea, the philosopher's stone of new Labour which will turn its lead into gold. To that end he plans to revive the moribund Fabian Research Bureau, to take over the society's idea-generating function. But like a juggernaut bearing down, the election looms: there is little mental space at present for any Big Idea besides victory.

Tomorrow: Mandelson's people

## We'll stop the Red Flag flying

The Labour Party is thinking the unthinkable – that it should no longer sing the most singable, most poignant, most battle-hardened hymn in its revolutionary repertoire. Tony Blair would probably prefer to drop "The Red Flag" – the tune Attlee's victorious MPs chanted as they paraded through the Commons' lobbies in 1945.

But how do you replace a song, whose chorus promises "though cowards flinch and traitors sneer/we'll keep the red flag flying here"? Written by Jim Connell, a Victorian Catholic Irishman who filled it full of blood sacrifice, and sung to the tune, "Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree/How lovely are your branches," "The Red Flag" combines populism with fundamentalism.

Parties are often not adept at changing their political tune. When Labour adopted Queen's "We are the champions" for its 1991 conference, it looked yobbish. And the Liberal Democrats, accompanied this week in Brighton by "Search for the hero inside yourself", sound as though they are selling not policies but Peugeot.

So what could Labour do, if it decided to lower "The Red Flag"? One simple alternative would be a famous bastardised version of the hymn, striking an aspirational new Labour pose, which begins: "The working class can kiss my ass/I've got the foreman's job at last." Another rendering whose time has come opens: "The cloth cap and the working class/As images are dated/For we are Labour's smart guard/And we are educated."

But perhaps a new tune is needed. In Labour circles, there's much support for

William Blake's "Jerusalem", a rousing hymn about creating God's own city. But it's utterly English – bound to annoy the Scots. Worse, the Tories (who don't seem to understand Blake's rallying call to social justice) already sing it themselves. There is also support for, "I vow to thee my country", but the tune sounds too much like an advert for full-cream butter.

Mr Blair needs to think afresh. Yesterday, Tony Banks MP, after a full and errorless rendition of "The Red Flag" down the phone from Strasbourg, suggested: "What about 'The sun has got his hat on, hip, hip, hooray' or 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam'? They would appeal to the broadest section of people. That's what the Labour party's for these days, isn't it?"

"It's my party and I'll cry if I want to", the Sixties classic, also won support among disenchanted Labour figures. As does "Money Makes the World Go Round", "Things Can Only Get Better" and, in anticipation of a post-election love-in with the Liberal Democrats, "Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree".

A compromise that might please many would be the music hall number: "It's the rich who gets the pleasure/It's the poor who gets the blame/It's the same the whole world over/Ain't it all a bloody shame." But this would surely meet the same objections as "The Red Flag". No, the Labour leader will have to get radical to strike a truly Thatcherite pose and win over wavering Tories. Noel Coward should be his muse. How about the 1938 song: "The stately homes of England/We proudly represent?"

Jack O'Sullivan



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## obituaries / gazette

# Denis Dowling

The connection between the New Zealand-born baritone Denis Dowling and Sadler's Wells (later English National) Opera spanned 45 years. Dowling made his debut with the company as Falstaff in *Der Rosenkavalier* in March 1939, while still a student at the Royal College of Music, and said farewell on 29 June 1984 (five days after his 74th birthday) as Prince Nikolai Bolkonsky in Prokofiev's *War and Peace* at the Metropolitan in New York, on the last night of ENO's American tour.

Though he lost several years owing to the Second World War and its aftermath, Dowling clocked up a vast number of performances of more than 100 different roles. A skilful comedian, with a flexible lyric baritone voice, he excelled in Mozart and Rossini, but he was equally convincing as the sadistic Prison Camp Commandant in Janáček's *From the House of the Dead* or the Secret Police Agent in Menotti's *The Consul* and as Baron Mirko Zeta in *The Merry Widow* or Pook Bah in *The Mikado*.

Denis Dowling was born in Ranfurly, New Zealand, and brought up on his father's sheep farm, where he himself worked on leaving school. After playing the baritone (saxhorn) in the local brass band, in 1929 he began to take singing lessons from Frank Tuohy, a well-known local voice teacher. Within a year he was entering – and winning – competitions in Dunedin and Christchurch and taking part in concerts and radio broadcasts.

In 1933 he sang Marquis Henri de Cornville in Planquette's *Les Cloches de Corneville* for the Dunedin Operatic and Dramatic Society, his "first essay into the realm of musical comedy". Then, after winning the Melbourne Sun Arts Competition in 1934, he came to London to study further.

Dowling obtained a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, where his vocal teacher was Dawson Erser. In July 1937 his performance of Ford in a College production of Nicolaï's *Merry Wives of Windsor* was noticed by Lilian Baylis, director of the Sadler's Wells Opera, who suggested that he should contact her when he had completed his studies. Though Baylis died later that year, in 1939 Dowling was asked to sing Falstaff at Sadler's Wells.

As the first singer to be awarded the Tagore Gold Medal for the best all-round student of the year, he left the

RCM in a blaze of glory, but the outbreak of the Second World War postponed all plans for the future. It would be nine years before he returned to Sadler's Wells.

During the war Dowling served as an officer with the Royal Artillery, taking part in the D-Day Normandy landings. He was blown up twice, first into a barn, then out again, with dice effect on his lungs.

After demobilisation, in 1947 he joined the newly formed English Opera Group, singing Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Sid in Britten's *Albert Herring* at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, Copenhagen, Oslo, Amsterdam and Lucerne, and Ben Budge in Britten's version of *The Beggar's Opera* at Cambridge. In 1948 he finally returned to Sadler's Wells, making his first appearance as Silvio in *Pagliacci*.

New roles followed thick and fast: throughout the 1950s he was giving up to 70 performances a season. He sang Escamillo and Don Carlos in *Carmen*, Dr Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, a Showman and a Sergeant in Vaughan Williams's *High the Drier*, Sharpless in *Madam Butterfly*, Baron Douphol and Germont in *La Traviata*, Pietro in *Simon Boccanegra*, Marcello in *La Bohème* and many other roles.

One of his earliest successes was Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, which he first sang in 1950. The role suited him both vocally and dramatically, displaying his superb diction as well as the solid technique acquired at the RCM. Another favourite was Doctor Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, a similarly mercurial character. His first Mozart role was Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, followed by the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*.

In 1956, the Mozart bicentenary year, Dowling made a very stylish Don Giovanni and, moving from master to valet, a highly subversive Figaro. Two years later he took on the spoken part of Pasha Selim in *The Seraglio*, revealing a beautiful speaking voice. Perhaps the finest of all his Mozart roles was Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), in which a smooth and polished manner did not conceal the character's deep cynicism.

Nineteen fifty-six was also the year that Dowling gave one of his best comic performances. Sir Tristram Mickleford in *Martha*; in 1957 Gianni Schicchi, a genial rogue with a great sense

of humour, was equally good, but both were surpassed in 1959 by Dandini in *La Cenerentola*. A superb sense of comic timing, together with his habitual excellence of diction and the fluency of his florid singing, made this a magnificent portrayal.

Shortly afterwards, Dowling moved from Figaro in *The Barber* to Doctor Bartolo, scoring yet another great success. In 1963 he added Raimbault in *Count Ory* to his collection of Rossini roles, followed by Fabrizio in *The Thieving Magpie* and, after the company moved to the Coliseum in 1968, by Taddeo in *The Italian Girl in Algiers*.

Meanwhile, as soon as the copyright on the Gilbert and Sullivan operas expired in 1962, Sadler's Wells mounted *Iolanthe*, in which Dowling made an imposing Earl of Mountararat, and *The Mikado*, with the baritone as Pook Bah. In 1963 *Iolanthe* was toured to Ger-



Dowling with Heather Bogg in Rossini's *Count Ory* at Sadler's Wells, 1963. Photograph: Hulton Getty

many, where it caused astonishment as well as mirth. From the *House of the Dead* in 1965 aroused very different emotions: Janáček's opera, based on Dostoevsky's autobiographical novel, brought out a more serious aspect of the singer's talent. Cast against type as the cruel Commandant, Dowling won universal praise. Sir Humphrey, a role he created in Phyllis Tate's *The What d'ye call it?* at the Cheltenham Festival in 1966, and George Selincourt, which he sang in the premiere of Richard Rodney Bennett's *A Penny for a Song* in 1967, were more in his usual style.

Rejoining the English Opera Group in 1971, Dowling sang Merlin in Purcell's *King Arthur* at the Norwich Festival and at Drottningholm in Sweden, receiving great praise. For ENO (as it had become in 1974) Dowling took on many character roles: the Commissioner in

*Madam Butterfly*, *de Brétigny* in *Manon*, the Commissar of Police in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Marquis d'Obigny in *La Traviata*, and Baron Wurmherm in Prokofiev's *The Gambler*, bringing them all to vivid theatrical life. The gems of the collection were Benoit and Alcandro in *La Bohème* and Prince Nikolai Bolkonsky. Having originally sung this extremely disagreeable character in 1972, he repeated it for several revivals until 1984, when *War and Peace* was given at the Coliseum, then in Austin, Texas, and New York. Subsequently Dowling retired, both as singer and as Vocal Consultant to the company, a post he had held since 1976.

Elizabeth Forbes

Denis Dowling, opera singer, born Ranfurly, South Island, New Zealand 24 June 1910; married 1943 Phyllis Clutterbuck; died London 23 September 1996.

home in short forms. He attempted, however, one full-scale work, the novel *D'Alembert's Ende* ("D'Alembert's End", 1970), in which nine people in one day exhibit the linguistic habits, the colloquialisms, the jargon of their class and their profession in exchanges which flatten out plot and character in a tortuous display of language in use. That novel has been more acknowledged than admitted: indeed Heisenbüttel himself, perhaps inevitably, has enjoyed much esteem (he was awarded the Bucer Prize in 1969) but little popularity. Yet his dominant presence in the field of linguistic "trying things out" has been recognised by generations of young, would-be innovative poets right into the 1990s.

"Everything, as possible, everything can still be said," thus Heisenbüttel in 1965. It was his motto for decades, fascinatingly exemplified, and others have adopted it.

Philip Brady

Helmut Heisenbüttel, writer, born Wilhelmshaven, Germany 21 June 1921; married 1954 Ida Wurmholz (one son, three daughters); died Gillingham, Kent 19 September 1996.

Non-literary everyday usage, newspaper reports, the language of politics and bureaucracy supplied Heisenbüttel with raw material (in German) for collages of interlocking or interrupted quotation or for teasingly repetitive demonstrations of language growing circular or contradicting itself. The results could be taxing (the quotations were always unattributed) and yet language, however rearranged, pointed back time and again, often wittily, sometimes menacingly, to the users of language.

Heisenbüttel was most at

Shostakovich, composer, 1906; Robert Branson, film director, 1907; Dennis Philip L. Handman, King of Spain, 1506; Samuel Butler, poet, writer and satirist, 1633; Johann Heinrich Lambert, mathematician, 1767; Richard Porson, scholar, 1808; Jacques-Etienne Joseph-Alexandre Macdonald, Duc de Tarente, soldier, 1840; Johann Baptist Strauss the Elder, composer, 1849; Albert Joseph Moore, decorative painter, 1893; Charles Cortet, painter, 1925; Helen Broderick, comedienne and actress, 1939; Emily Post (Price), writer and columnist, 1960; Erich Maria Remarque, novelist, 1910; Nikolai Pankov (Coco the Clown), 1974; Leopold III, former King of the Belgians, 1935; Walter Pidgeon, actor, 1944. On this day: King Harold II defeated his brother the Earl Tostig and King Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, 1066; Christopher Columbus set sail on his second voyage, 1493; the Pacific Ocean was discovered by Vasco Núñez de Balboa, 1513; *Publick Ornaments*, both Foreign and Domestic, the first American newspaper, was published in Boston by Benjamin Harris, but was immediately suppressed, 1690; the relief of Lucknow by Havelock and Outram began, 1857; the comedy opera *Dorothy* was first produced in London, 1886; the Royal Court Theatre, St John's Square, London, opened, 1888; the first London performance of the musical show *The Dollar Princess* was presented, 1909; the battleship *Liberat* exploded, causing 226 deaths in Toulon Harbour, 1911; the Barons of Loos began, 1915; the German High Commissioner in Norway set up a government with Vidkun Quisling at its head, 1940; the first transatlantic telephone cable between America and Britain (Newfoundland-Oban) came into use, 1956; in a referendum, Norway voted against joining the Common Market, 1972; the first London performance of the musical show *Step by Step* was presented, 1984. Today is the Feast Day of St Albert of Jerusalem, St Anthonio, or Anthony, St Geoffrey or Geoffrey, St Finbar (Fionn-Bhar) or Balire and St Firminus of Amiens.

few English tourists in Paris would think of visiting the Librairie Tonkam (29 rue Keller) or Samouraï (42 rue de Mauberge, just a few steps from the Gare du Nord). Yet these are two of the most fascinating bookshops in the capital, for they are full of Japanese *manga*, which the cartoonist Kensei Hirokane recently defined at the Festival d'Annecy devoted to cartoon comics as "graphic novels".

The craze for *manga* comics and their animated movie versions has reached epidemic proportions in Japan, South-East Asia and Europe. Even my small TV Andorra station regularly screens Japanese comic-book serials like *Dragon Ball*, *Akira* and *Goldorak*. *Dragon Ball Z*, the movie version, broke box-office records in France, at the same time sparking off parental protests about its violence and sexual content. When Hayao Miyazaki's brilliantly funny and technically innovative *Porco Rosso* hit the movie screens in Paris in 1995, it even outlasted Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct* for several weeks of its run, and it is still being regularly re-issued.

Hiroshi Fujimoto was one of the moving spirits in the great surge of enthusiasm in Japan for *manga* magazines, books and movies. He worked in tandem with a close friend from school days, Akiko Motono, born like Hiroshi in Toyama Prefecture. His date of birth made him only three months Hiroshi's junior. They used the pen-name of Fujiko-Fujiko and lived together in the same small apartment in downtown Tokyo until their success as cartoonist storyellers, allowed them to marry and buy palatial adjoining residences for their families.

Fujiko-Fujiko first achieved fame with the children's comic tale *Obake no Kisyaku*, popularly called "Oba-Q". After it appeared in February 1964 in

that title for the 1958 Lambeth Conference. The report *Putting Asunder* (1966) was very much his work and proved to be a forerunner of the recent divorce law reform. He was in correspondence with the Lord Chancellor almost to the end of his life, in support of the no-fault divorce recommendations.

He worked hard and conscientiously without the ambition and self-interest that can mar many a vocation. This, coupled with a scrupulously critical

mind, was doubtless why his writing was not more extensive, although between 1940 and 1963 he was the author of some half a dozen books.

Bryan Bentley exploded the silly myth that one is either good with one's head or one's hands. He was extremely good with both, having a dextrous touch for making things and an acute understanding of how things worked – he serviced his own car. Not only was he an innovative Freemason for many of the 25 years of his Windsor canonry, but also an effective Steward of the buildings and the works which abounded in the place.

With regard to his long tenure as Canon of Windsor, followed by the unprecedented 14 years

as Honorary Residential Canon, he devoted considerable energy to the maintenance and understanding of the college and chapel traditions. What appeared to some as an overzealous regard for the ancient statutes that bind the College of St George derived from a deep love and concern for the place and its continuing part in the life of the wider Church.

It has been said that he was in some ways a difficult person at times, but such is often the judgement of those who do not distinguish between the argument and the man. He was, above all, a seeker after truth for his own sake.

His life and work spanned a good deal of the 20th century; he was a living link with an earlier generation and a reminder of an age when men of ability and distinction responded more readily to the Church's call to ministry.

How one dies is largely dependent on how one has lived. Bentley's was no easy vocation. He was prepared to argue it out with his maker as he did with his friends. And through all this he increasingly displayed a warm and generous heart.

Derek Stanesby

Geoffrey Bryan Bentley, priest, born 16 July 1909; ordained deacon 1933, priest 1934; Assistant Curate, St Cuthbert's, Copnor 1933-35; Tutor of Scholae Cantuarii, Lincoln 1935-38; Lecturer 1938-52; Priest Vicar, Lincoln Cathedral 1938-52; Proctor in Convocation 1945-55; Rector, Milton Abbot with Dunstons 1952-57; Examining Chaplain to Bishop of Exeter 1957-62; Honorary Residential Canon 1962-96; married 1938 Nina Coombe (two sons, two daughters); died 12 September 1996.

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*Shonen Sande* ("Shonen Sunday") magazine, its success was so meteoric, the publisher changed his magazine from a monthly to a weekly, starting the strange amorphous figure of Oba-Q which soon began to turn up everywhere as toys and on posters and children's clothes.

This success was followed by *Ninja Hattori-kun*, which, as the title suggests, was a spoof on the *Ninja* genre. *Pomman*, an amiable idiot and above all the greatest children's icon ever since the Seventies, Dorae-mon.

It is hard to explain to Westerners the perverse fascination of this atomic-powered robotic cat. It far surpasses in originality our own insufferable cat Garfield.

The bicephalic authors first unleashed Dorae-mon in the pages of *Shogakukan*, a comic weekly of the standard 300-page format, in 1970. In a typical childhood fantasy, the little boy Nobita, a bookish, bespectacled nerd, discovers this cute, cool, magical cat in the drawer of the desk at which all Japanese children slave over their homework.

Dorae-mon is smart, with three spiky whiskers on either side of a capacious mouth, and a sort of kangaroo pouch from which he produces all kinds of astonishing things, including a miniature helicopter that enables him to zoom around the room and the countryside.

He is surely a small child's dream-fulfillment fantasy of an all-powerful protector in a harsh adult world of endless sweating and school bullying. Like many Japanese robot figures, Dorae-mon is at the opposite pole to frightening cyborg creatures with surreal set armour and deadly weapons like atomic ray guns. He is reassuring, despite his odd behaviour, and much easier for a child to identify with than with a cold, calculating machine hero. Sales of Dorae-mon books

and merchandising reached phenomenal heights when the first annual animated version appeared in 1979.

One of the most popular forms of *manga*, enjoyed by both children and adults, is the "how-to-succeed-in-business" story, which covers nearly every profession in Japan – sushi-maker, chess player, sportsman (particularly golfer and footballer and basketball), photographer and – of course – *manga* cartoon artist. Fujiko-Fujiko cartooned the story of their own lives together in *Manga Mushi* ("The Way of the Manga"), which became a highly successful television serial drama on NHK.

The adventures of Nobita and Dorae-mon now comprise 50 stout volumes, with sales of over 50 million copies. Their combined personal income for the fiscal year 1980 was \$1.7m, and it has kept rising ever since. Fujiko without Fujio is unthinkable. Death is something even Dorae-mon cannot overcome.

James Kirkup

Hiroshi Fujimoto, cartoonist, born Toyama, Japan 12 December 1933; married (three daughters); died Tokyo 23 September 1996.

Canon G. B. Bentley

G. B. Bentley was an outstanding priest of the Church of England and a remarkable person.

I got to know Bentley well during the last 11 years of his life, as his next-door neighbour in the Cloisters at Windsor Castle, where he was a Canon of St George's Chapel from 1957 (and an Honorary Canon from 1982), and as a friend and confidant up to the hour of his death. Although he was in considerable discomfort and distress towards the end, his mind remained acutely sharp, his last dispute being with God, who had called him, whilst still at school at Uppingham, in Rutland, to the priestly vocation.

He recalled very clearly how he tried to resist that call but he succumbed and was firm in his conviction and vocation all his life. He went on to King's College, Cambridge, from where he emerged as a distinguished scholar with a double First in Classics and Theology.

During an active and vigorous ministry which spanned close on 50 years, Bryan Bentley served as priest, pastor and scholar, as husband to Nina and father to two sons and two daughters. It was not possible to get all those things right all the time, but he left a remarkable legacy in each of those spheres of his life.

His intellectual abilities were recognised early in his ministry through his work at Lincoln, in college and cathedral, and his pastoral gifts in hospital and parish. He devoted much of his intellectual energy to moral theology and as one of the leading moral theologians of his day was a prime mover in the Church's efforts to establish a fruitful relationship between church and state law with regard to marriage and the family, not least through his work under

that title for the 1958 Lambeth Conference. The report *Putting Asunder* (1966) was very much his work and proved to be a forerunner of the recent divorce law reform. He was in correspondence with the Lord Chancellor almost to the end of his life, in support of the no-fault divorce recommendations.

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# Helmut Heissenbüttel

German writers after 1945 had more reason than before to reflect on the corruptibility of language and the merits of silence.

Many animated briefly – and then settled down to more or less traditional forms of story-telling or poetry. Others, from the 1950s on, were more radical, exploring the possibility of fresh starts via language stripped and re-ordered. Their centre was Vienna but Helmut Heissenbüttel, born at the opposite end of German-speaking lands in Wilhelmshaven, was equally radical and more independent of groupings. Moreover his fascination with the limits and the resources of language never flagged over almost four decades. Although his own literary practice and his thinking about literature were never other than measured and reflective, he became, as the years passed, a living reminder of those distant, heady days of linguistic experiment.

Heissenbüttel was born in 1921, served in the Second World War until seriously wounded (he lost an arm) in 1942 and then studied – first in Dresden and Leipzig, after the war in Hamburg – Architecture, Art History and German, a combination that may well be

reflected in his tireless interest in typography, layout and in concrete modes of writing.

In 1957, already author of two volumes of experimental texts (*Kombinationen*, 1954, and *Topographien*, 1956) and a recipient of a literary award from Hamburg, he became editor of the "Radio-Essay", a department of South German Radio in Stuttgart. For over 20 years, until 1981, he was at the centre of a creative enterprise that was a distinguishing feature of German writing in the 1950s and 1960s – the radio play was a form that engaged a surprisingly large number of Germany's leading writers.

Heissenbüttel was neither as prescriptive nor as divorced from reality as he might sound. He rejected even the word experiment – it suggested too clear a sense of purpose – preferring *Ausprobieren* ("trying things out"). To much the same spirit, he published his poems and other pieces from 1960 onwards in *Textbücher*, thus avoiding any kind of genre definition. His refocusing on language as language might seem impoverishing – he quotes more than once Paul van Ostaen's claim that "the most beautiful poem about a fish is the word fish" – but he demonstrates with great virtuosity and in a variety of forms how far a

radio play was a natural medium for a writer interested in the distance between language and the visible, material world. In the modern, post-war world, language was no longer able, in Heissenbüttel's view, to reflect or penetrate a reality beyond itself, no longer anchored by systems of thought and literary practice. What was needed was "a new and radical nominalism... that takes words as objects, structuring words to form a new reality, not figuratively standing for something, but like a second reality".

In practice, Heissenbüttel was neither as prescriptive nor as divorced from reality as he might sound. He rejected even the word experiment – it suggested too clear a sense of purpose – preferring *Ausprobieren* ("trying things out"). To much the same spirit, he published his poems and other pieces from 1960 onwards in *Textbücher*, thus avoiding any kind of genre definition. His refocusing on language as language might seem impoverishing – he quotes more than once Paul van Ostaen's claim that "the most beautiful poem about a fish is the word fish" – but he demonstrates with great virtuosity and in a variety of forms how far a

return to linguistic basics can enrich the range both of poetry and of short prose.

Even a poem like the following, creating visual order out of a trivial occasion, makes something memorable out of one man, one bench, one hand, one dried herring – and crumb:

Man auf Bank  
Zwieback in Hand  
in Hand und  
Zwieback in Hand und  
Zwieback in Hand und  
Zwieback in Hand und

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING				DOLLAR				D-MARK			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months		Spot	1 month	3 months	
US	1539.0	5.0	7.4	1537.7	2.1	2.4		0502.0			
Canada	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
France	257.5	32-34	38-42	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Germany	239.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Japan	171.0	75-70	225-28	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
ECU	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Denmark	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Netherlands	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Sweden	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Norway	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Finland	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Switzerland	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Italy	259.0	1.0	1.0	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Hong Kong	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
India	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Israel	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			
Singapore	126.0	5-11	45-47	1282	28.25	88.45		0502.0			

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Nigeria	126.0	5-11	45-47
Australia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Oman	126.0	5-11	45-47
Brazil	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Philippines	126.0	5-11	45-47
Canada	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Romania	126.0	5-11	45-47
Chile	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Russia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Czech	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Denmark	1539.0	5.0	7.4	South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47
Egypt	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47
France	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Sweden	126.0	5-11	45-47
Germany	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Switzerland	126.0	5-11	45-47
Greece	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Taiwan	126.0	5-11	45-47
Hong Kong	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Thailand	126.0	5-11	45-47
India	1539.0	5.0	7.4	UK	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Indonesia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	US	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Italy	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Yemen	126.0	5-11	45-47
Japan	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Korea	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Malaysia	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Mexico	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Netherlands	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Norway	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Poland	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Portugal	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Romania	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Russia	1539.0	5.0	7				

Money Forward rates nearest to low are on a discount basis (other rates are at a premium)

Spot rates are quoted bid to spot basis. "Order" and "offer" are indicated by "b" and "o".

Money market rates are quoted bid to ask basis. "Order" and "offer" are indicated by "b" and "o".

Money market rates are quoted bid to ask basis. "Order" and "offer" are indicated by "b" and "o".

Tourist Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Nigeria	126.0	5-11	45-47
Australia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Oman	126.0	5-11	45-47
Brazil	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Philippines	126.0	5-11	45-47
Canada	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Romania	126.0	5-11	45-47
Chile	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Russia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Czech	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Denmark	1539.0	5.0	7.4	South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47
Egypt	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47
France	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Sweden	126.0	5-11	45-47
Germany	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Switzerland	126.0	5-11	45-47
Greece	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Taiwan	126.0	5-11	45-47
Hong Kong	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Thailand	126.0	5-11	45-47
India	1539.0	5.0	7.4	UK	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Indonesia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	US	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Italy	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Yemen	126.0	5-11	45-47
Japan	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Korea	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Malaysia	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Mexico	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Netherlands	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Norway	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Poland	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Portugal	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Romania	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Russia	1539.0	5.0	7				

Interest Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Nigeria	126.0	5-11	45-47
Australia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Oman	126.0	5-11	45-47
Brazil	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Philippines	126.0	5-11	45-47
Canada	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Romania	126.0	5-11	45-47
Chile	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Russia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Czech	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Denmark	1539.0	5.0	7.4	South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47
Egypt	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47
France	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Sweden	126.0	5-11	45-47
Germany	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Switzerland	126.0	5-11	45-47
Greece	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Taiwan	126.0	5-11	45-47
Hong Kong	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Thailand	126.0	5-11	45-47
India	1539.0	5.0	7.4	UK	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Indonesia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	US	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Italy	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Yemen	126.0	5-11	45-47
Japan	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Korea	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Malaysia	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Mexico	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Netherlands	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Norway	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Poland	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Portugal	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Romania	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Russia	1539.0	5.0	7				

Bond Yields

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Nigeria	126.0	5-11	45-47
Australia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Oman	126.0	5-11	45-47
Brazil	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Philippines	126.0	5-11	45-47
Canada	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Romania	126.0	5-11	45-47
Chile	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Russia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Czech	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Denmark	1539.0	5.0	7.4	South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47
Egypt	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47
France	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Sweden	126.0	5-11	45-47
Germany	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Switzerland	126.0	5-11	45-47
Greece	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Taiwan	126.0	5-11	45-47
Hong Kong	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Thailand	126.0	5-11	45-47
India	1539.0	5.0	7.4	UK	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Indonesia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	US	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Italy	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Yemen	126.0	5-11	45-47
Japan	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Korea	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Malaysia	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Mexico	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Netherlands	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Norway	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Poland	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Portugal	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Romania	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Russia	1539.0	5.0	7				

Money Market Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Nigeria	126.0	5-11	45-47
Australia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Oman	126.0	5-11	45-47
Brazil	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Philippines	126.0	5-11	45-47
Canada	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Romania	126.0	5-11	45-47
Chile	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Russia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Czech	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Saudi Arabia	126.0	5-11	45-47
Denmark	1539.0	5.0	7.4	South Africa	126.0	5-11	45-47
Egypt	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Spain	126.0	5-11	45-47
France	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Sweden	126.0	5-11	45-47
Germany	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Switzerland	126.0	5-11	45-47
Greece	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Taiwan	126.0	5-11	45-47
Hong Kong	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Thailand	126.0	5-11	45-47
India	1539.0	5.0	7.4	UK	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Indonesia	1539.0	5.0	7.4	US	1539.0	5.0	7.4
Italy	1539.0	5.0	7.4	Yemen	126.0	5-11	45-47
Japan	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Korea	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Malaysia	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Mexico	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Netherlands	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Norway	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Poland	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Portugal	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Romania	1539.0	5.0	7.4				
Russia	1539.0	5.0	7				

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Settlement price	Open interest
Long Oil	30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
Short Oil	30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
Long Gold	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00
Short Gold	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00
Long Silver	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Short Silver	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Long Copper	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Short Copper	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Long Aluminum	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Short Aluminum	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Long ECU	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Short ECU	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Long Euro	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Short Euro	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Long FTSE 100	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Short FTSE 100	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price	Settlement price	Settlement price	Settlement price
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80

Commodities

Commodity	Settlement price	Settlement price	Settlement price
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Fund	Settlement price	Settlement price	Settlement price
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80
30.80	30.80	30.80	30.80





## Byatt cannot wash his hands of water scandal

**COMMENT**

This drip-drip process of siphoning money from one pot to another – otherwise known as transfer pricing – has been going on for seven years without Ofwat apparently noticing.

Somehow it sticks in the craw to have to agree with Frank Dobson but for once Labour's environment spokesman is right when he complains that Ofwat may not be up to the job of regulating the privatised water companies.

The report yesterday by the director-general of Water Services, Ian Byatt, highlighting the way that the 10 companies have been feather-bedding their non-regulated businesses at the expense of customers of their core water and sewage businesses is shocking enough.

What is more disturbing, however, is that this drip-drip process of siphoning money from one pot to another – otherwise known as transfer pricing – has been going on for seven years without Ofwat apparently noticing.

But what takes the biscuit for sheer audacity is Mr Byatt's calm assertion that it is all the fault of the auditors. If Ofwat is not there to police and prevent this sort of behaviour through the licence conditions laid down for the privatised water companies then what is it there for?

Ofwat is hardly short of the requisite powers to stop this sort of thing and yet the floodgates appear to have been stuck on open since privatisation in 1989. The water industry's record on diversification into non-regulated businesses has been appalling. When those associate companies rely upon the regulated business for more than half their turnover, the scope for abuse becomes even more apparent.

And abuse there has been by the bucketful, from charging central costs only to profitable parts of the group to letting contracts to associate companies without a single competitive tender.

Mr Byatt says he has now spoken to the offending companies and they have agreed to "remedy their practices in line with Ofwat's wishes". You bet they have. That may not be the end of the story. Transfer pricing is the kind of phrase that makes taxmen prick up their ears and scent blood. There is enough in the Ofwat report to merit close scrutiny.

As for Mr Byatt, he has rather blotted his copybook and his reputation as the most capable and astute of the regulators by publishing the evidence only to then wash his hands of responsibility.

### Better to lead than to be pushed

The family shareholders at Parker Knoll have declined in the executive chairs that made it so famous, taken a long, hard look at what happens to those who try to hold back the tide of privatisation and sensibly decided to abandon the company's dual share structure.

This, of course, is not an act of pure philanthropy, borne out of higher motives such as a belief in shareholder democracy. The two-for-three scrip issue that the 40-odd

family shareholders will enjoy provides them with a highly lucrative exit route from a business that most of them have probably long since lost interest in, especially after it was renamed Cornwell Parker.

In this day and age a company controlled by those holding just 7 per cent of the shares in issue is not, in any event, a tenable proposition long term. It was only a matter of time before the holders of non-voting shares – one 93 per cent of the shareholder base – began agitating for change.

Nevertheless, the Parkers and the Jourdanes, the two founding families behind the business, deserve two cheers for passing it on to a new set of shareholders in a manner most likely to ensure its continued success.

It was Martin and Tom Jourdan, the two remaining family members on the board, who decided to bring in a new chief executive, James Moore, give him a free hand to overhaul the strategy and then volunteer to step aside.

Dual voting structures are anachronisms. They make for illiquid stocks, depress share prices and increase the cost of raising capital. But there are more compelling reasons for abandoning such structures.

At Liberty, the Stewart-Liberty family bunged on to their voting shares for grim death and look what happened. A South African interloper broke up the cosy party and two changes of management later the business is only just recovering from a torrid five years of guerrilla warfare among shareholders.

In opting for enfranchisement, Cornwell Parker is following an increasingly well-worn path already trodden by the likes of GUS, Greenalls and more recently Pifco. But there are still some dinosaurs out there. Schroders, the Savoy group and even the mighty Daily Mail & General Trust may care to reflect that it is better to lead rather than be pushed.

### A plan to reduce the annual angst

The average annual meeting is a mind-numbingly boring ritual at which shareholders and managers meet, talk, but fail abysmally to communicate.

Even the Department of Trade and Industry has acknowledged that the shambles of the agm does no credit to the shareholder democracy it has been trying to encourage.

In April it published a consultation document containing some ideas that would give shareholders more opportunity to get meaty answers out of their boards. With the threat of government intervention in the air, the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, representing the company secretaries who stage the ancient and dishonoured ritual, stepped in yesterday with a voluntary guide to good practice at agms.

There was an audible sigh of relief from the DTT, which loves a good voluntary code of practice since it allows ministers to avoid doing anything themselves.

The guide includes a new requirement that all directors, not just non-executives, must put themselves up for re-election by rotation. But like the DTT, the company secretaries pour cold water on radical proposals from shareholder activists to force institutions to cast their vote on every issue, and to make it mandatory for companies to pay the costs of circulating shareholder resolutions.

The most interesting idea from the secretaries is a cheap and easy way to give more influence to the vast numbers of pension fund and other investors whose shareholdings are aggregated in fund managers' nominee companies.

At present, the nominee company can appoint just one representative to speak at the annual meeting. With many pension funds now managed by vast City organisations, their individual voices have been silenced. The DTT suggested a change in the law to allow the individual pension fund trustees and other investors represented by the fund managers to speak at agms.

But company secretaries reckon the same result can be achieved effortlessly, without legislation, if the nominees issue a separate proxy card to each of the shareholders they represent. The board should then use its existing powers to waive the rule banning proxies from speaking.

The idea is so simple it is odd that it has not been thought of before. Perhaps it ought to be incorporated in the Stock Exchange listing rules.

## Rank buys Cobleigh in £96m deal

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Another fortune was made in the booming eating-out market yesterday after Rank paid £95.6m for Tom Cobleigh, a chain of 44 managed pubs that was started from scratch only four years ago. Derek Mapp, Cobleigh's managing director who chipped in £170,000 in 1991 to 'acquire the group's first pub, stands to pocket £6.4m from the deal.

The other main beneficiary of the sale is European Acquisition Capital, a venture capital group that invests funds mainly for pension funds, which has transformed its original £10m investment into £47.5m. EAC put the group into play earlier this summer when it indicated it wanted an exit, either through a placing or trade sale.

Mr Mapp said he was happy with the sale to Rank, which has allowed him and three other founder directors to realise their investment while remaining with the company to achieve their ambition of building Tom Cobleigh, which trades under the motto "Unspilt Pubs for Nice People", into a national brand.

Neither the founders, who have committed to stay with Rank for three years, nor EAC sold any shares on flotation less than a year ago when Cobleigh

raised £22m via a placing of shares at 150p. Rank's takeover, which is understood to have beaten a rival offer from Yates Wine Lodges, was pitched yesterday at 240p.

Andrew Teare, new chief executive at Rank, said the acquisition was in line with his recently stated strategy of concentrating on the group's leisure retailing activities while withdrawing from its long standing investment in the Xerox office machines business. He denied the deal meant Rank was poised to make a string of pub acquisitions.

He said Rank would accelerate Tom Cobleigh's already ambitious opening programme which had envisaged 16 new openings this year. A similar level of new pub openings is planned for the next two years leaving us with 80 plus units and an extended geographic profile.

Rank had considered setting up its own branded outlets, Mr Teare said, but buying Cobleigh had given it a five-year headstart. Rank's shares closed 7.5p lower at 431.5p as the market focused on the price being paid for the company which represented 27 times forecast earnings for the year to next March.

The acquisition is the latest in a run of fully-priced recent purchases of small entrepreneurial pub companies.



James Sexton (right) and Colin Rowley, finance director, celebrating the group's first year on the Alternative Investment Market with a 62 per cent rise in annual profits to £18.8m. Stripping out a £7.45m

part of the relocation of the Southern Daily Echo and other Southampton-based weekly titles, operating profits only edged ahead, however. The group said the current year would see the virtual completion of

printing operations, although the full benefits will not come through until next year. The group is raising the dividend by 15 per cent to 17.75p.

Photograph: News Team

## IoD warning against tax cuts

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

The Institute of Directors yesterday issued a stark warning to the Government not to cut taxes in November's Budget, urging the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, instead to correct an "alarming" deterioration in public finances.

In its pre-budget submission, written by Stephen Davies, a former senior Treasury economic

adviser, the IoD called for £7bn to be slashed from Government revenues. Savings of £5bn could come from public spending cuts and a further £2bn from the Treasury's reserves.

Tim Melville-Ross, the IoD's director-general, said: "Progress on sorting out the public finances has simply not been achieved... I think it would not be too strong a word to say we're alarmed by the lack of progress in that direction."

The IoD said the state of the public finances was getting "ever more disturbing" as tax revenues fell short of Treasury predictions. In addition, lower-than-expected inflation meant Government spending plans for 1997/98 were more generous than they appeared in cash terms.

Mr Melville-Ross said the IoD had received "virtually no calls" from members urging further tax cuts. "Even your

average Conservative voter understands the wisdom of a prudent budget", he said.

But the IoD admitted that the Chancellor was almost certain to ignore the advice and press ahead with tax cuts. Today the CBI will issue a similar call for a "prudent budget". "There's clearly strong political pressure on the Chancellor to cut taxes... I suspect he will put £1bn or £2bn into income tax reductions," Mr Melville-Ross explained.

### IN BRIEF

- Leading accountancy firms Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young moved closer to registering their UK operations in Jersey after the island's parliament yesterday passed a law that would provide auditors with greater protection against law suits by allowing limited liability partnerships. The firms are likely to vote on a move to Jersey if – as expected – the law is sanctioned by the Privy Council later this year. The development comes as the Government is considering amending the UK law on joint and several liability, under which an auditor can be held responsible for the whole loss in a corporate collapse regardless of the extent of his or her fault.
- Siebe has agreed to acquire Mannesmann Demag's Compressed Air Division for £20.3m cash, equivalent to the division's book value. The division, which designs and manufactures industrial and portable compressors, air tools and related equipment, will be integrated into Siebe's CompAir Division.
- Refuge Group is continuing to explore ways to create a new security for its shareholders to take account of the valuation of its long-term funds. It will therefore revise its formal offer for the share capital of United Friendly and will despatch its revised formal offer to shareholders no later than 30 September.
- Royal Doulton agreed a £547m bid for Cathness Glass Limited yesterday in a deal which should be earnings enhancing in the first full year after acquisition. Alistair Mair, Cathness chairman and managing director, will remain with the company along with other senior executives.
- John David Sports issued the pathfinder listing particulars for its proposed flotation by means of a placing of existing and new ordinary shares. The placing will raise approximately £8.9m and be used to strengthen its balance sheet, provide financial resources to proceed with planned store openings and provide additional working capital and financial flexibility.
- Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation, which operates three services from Portsmouth in addition to its Dover-Calais crossing, said traffic on all Continental routes in the year to end-August was down by 11 per cent year-on-year. Car traffic was down by 15 per cent. Its market share of the Dover-Calais service fell from almost 39 per cent to 30 per cent. Eurotunnel claims it has a 44 per cent share of the Dover-Calais traffic.
- Guinness marked the official opening of its 1,000th Irish theme pub world-wide with a new Molly Darcy's outlet the heart of Vienna's first district. It is the first traditional Irish pub to open in Austria under the Guinness Irish pub concept established in 1992 and Guinness expects to open other such pubs in Austria.
- Lasmo received consent from the Department of Trade & Industry to develop the Boulton gasfield in the southern North Sea. Co-venturers with Lasmo in the development are Conoco (operator) and British Borneo. Lasmo expects production to begin in the second quarter of 1998.

Take advantage of this great culinary offer with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and savour a taste of France at a very special price.

We have joined forces with Café Rouge, the restaurant chain that offers straightforward French cooking at value for money prices, to offer you the chance to sample the new autumn menu at a unique rate.

Together with a friend, you can enjoy a two course lunch plus coffee, worth up to £13, for just £5 each, or a three course evening meal plus coffee, worth up to £18, for just £10 each. Service is included in both prices.

There are 66 Café Rouge restaurants, located in England and Scotland, which are participating in our offer. For further details, see our list printed on the right.

**How to Qualify**

To qualify for the offer, simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. If you have a Starter Token, it can be used instead of a numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

Attach two tokens to one of the special vouchers printed in the paper (each of which bears a third token) and take it to your nearest Café Rouge between 30 September and 13 October inclusive, to enjoy one of our two great offers – lunch for £5 or dinner for £10. You must identify yourself as an Independent / Café Rouge Voucher Holder and present your voucher and tokens on arrival at the restaurant. You will be given a copy of our special menu, details of which are printed on this page.

Today we print Token 5; Token 6 will be printed in tomorrow's paper. Our first voucher was printed in Monday's Independent, further vouchers will be printed on Thursday 26 and Sunday 29 September.

If you want to try both of our superb offers of lunch for £5 and dinner for £10, you can do so. Just remember to collect three differently numbered tokens plus a voucher for each offer.

Tokens can be redeemed at any time between 30 September and 13 October 1996 inclusive.

**Terms and Conditions**

- The offer entitles two people to either lunch for £5 each or dinner for £10 each when a voucher and three differently numbered tokens are presented at one of the Café Rouges listed in our promotion.
- Only one Starter Token can be used instead of a numbered token.
- The cost of drinks is not included in either offer and a 12.5% optional service charge will be added to the cost of any drinks or purchases additional to the offer.
- Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.
- The offer is valid from 30 September to 13 October 1996.
- For readers who have an Independent/Café Rouge promotional postcard, this qualifies as a voucher. It can be redeemed at any Café Rouge restaurant listed in our promotion, as long as two differently numbered tokens are attached, alongside your Starter Token.
- Offer does not apply to Café Rouge Dublin.



THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

## Lunch for £5, Dinner for £10 at CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANT BAR CAFE



### CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANTS

**LONDON:**  
Battersea, Blackheath, Canary Wharf, Chelsea, Chiswick, Clapham, Crouch End, Dulwich, Ealing, Earlsfield, Fetter Lane, Fulham, Fulham Palace Road, Friar Street, Hampstead, Hays Galleria, Highgate, James Street, Kensington, Kew, Knightsbridge, Limehouse Lane, Maidstone, Old Brompton Road, Portobello, Putney, Richmond, Sheen, Southgate, Shepherd's Bush, Strand On The Green, Wandsworth, Wellington Street, West Hampstead, Whiteleys, Wimbledon, St John's Wood.

**OUTSIDE LONDON:**  
Aberdeen, Bath, Beckenham, Birmingham, Brentwood, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Dorking, Edinburgh, Esher, Glasgow, Guildford, Harrogate, Henley, High Wycombe, Kingston Hill, Knutsford, Loughborough, Manchester, Oxford, Pinner, Reigate, Staines, Salisbury, Watlington, Wiltshire.

If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8042 for details. Opening hours are Mon-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 12pm-10.30pm. For city branches, check with your local Café Rouge.

### SPECIAL OFFER MENU

#### £5 Lunch

**Hors d'Oeuvres**  
Salade de Merguez  
Sauté of Warm Spicy Sausage with Red & Green Peppers  
or  
Salade de Bleu d'Auvergne once Noix  
Little Gem Lettuce with Blue Cheese and Walnuts  
**Plats Chauds**  
Steak and Grilled  
Béarnaise, Pommes de Terre Rissolées  
Grilled Salmon with Rissolées  
Potatoes  
or  
Poulet Rôti au Gratin  
Dauphinois  
Roast Breast of Chicken with Dauphinois Potatoes  
Filter coffee

#### £10 Dinner

**Hors d'Oeuvres**  
Soupe de Poissons  
Mediterranean Fish Soup with Croutons, Raita and Grapese Cheese  
or  
Terrine Maison  
Pâté of Chicken Liver flavoured with Madeira, Served with Bread  
**Plats Chauds**  
Navarin d'Agneau  
Traditional Lamb stew cooked in the house  
or  
Marmite Dippoise  
Normandy Fish Stew of Scallops, Mussels, Prawns and Salmon finished with Mushrooms and Cream  
**Desserts**  
Oranges Caramelisées  
Caramelised Oranges,  
Cinnamon Ice Cream  
Profiteroles Sauce Caramel  
Profiteroles filled with Vanilla Ice Cream, Buttered Sauce  
Filter coffee

12.5% Service Charge included

## Tarmac finds recovery elusive

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

As Britain's biggest civil engineering and contracting group, Tarmac ought to have good idea of the lie of the land. The trouble is the company has developed a reputation for erring on the side of optimism too often. Its most costly error was to badly misread the housing market - a decision that ultimately resulted in last year's £600m asset swap with Wimpey's minerals and construction business.

Yesterday Neville Simms, Tarmac's chief executive, again brushed aside the gloom and doom emanating from rival contractors. In particular, he highlighted the cost benefits arising from integrating the Wimpey activities.

These are expected to yield more than £35m - twice as much as previously expected - and will put Tarmac in a strong position when market conditions improve. However, evidence that such a recovery is in sight is as elusive as ever.

In the year to June, underlying pre-tax profits fell to £6.7m from £29.1m, at the bottom of market forecasts, due to tough markets and bad weather. Including a £65m exceptional charge for restructuring the Wimpey activities, including 1,400 redundancies of a 26,000 workforce, the half-time loss widened to £58.3m from £15.9m.

The biggest hit was taken in construction services. Profits here shrank from £5.5m to £700,000 as the design consultancy business slipped into a £2.3m loss, versus a £2.6m profit, after orders dried up. Mr Simms admitted Tarmac, preoccupied with Wimpey, had taken its eye off the ball.

The heavy building materials division fared better, with profits rising a fraction to £39.7m. But the picture here is far from rosy given the heavy exposure to the UK roads programme, which is being cut to ribbons. Volume declines of up to 24 per cent cast doubt on Tarmac's ability to push through single-digit price increases for much longer.

Similarly, doubts must be expressed about Mr Simms' enthusiasm for the Government's Private Finance Initiative, where Tarmac is in contract or preferred bidder for £800m of work. Few other contractors, or financiers, share Tarmac's belief in PFI's prospects.

Of equal concern is gearing of 66 per cent which must raise a question mark over the 5p dividend being maintained. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull has cut its forecast for pre-exceptional profits this year to £68m from £86m and has lowered its 1997 estimate to £94m from £114m. That implies a p/e of 19

### Steep price for More O'Ferrall

More O'Ferrall, the billboards to illuminated bus shelters group, is the dream investment - it enjoys a dominant position in a fast growing sector and has plenty of scope to grow in mature overseas markets. It is well-financed with enviable cash flow.

Interim figures yesterday came with some bad news - the O'Ferrall is to be dropped to better reflect the fact that Adsell, the fast growing bus shelter arm, is now as big in group terms as the core More O'Ferrall billboards operation. There was nothing else to complain about.

Pre-tax profits of £6.2m were 33 per cent higher than last year's first half £4.7m, struck from a 21 per cent increase in turnover from £39.3m to £47.8m. Earnings per share grew in line with profits to 12.4p and the interim payout rose 6 pence to 3.6p (3.4p). Strong cash flow helped debts fall 31 per cent to £10.2m.

Driving those good figures was a marked shift in advertising fashion, away from television, which no longer delivers the mass audiences of old, towards outdoor media. Blue-chip advertisers such as BMW, Kellogg's, Pepsi and Procter & Gamble have started using outdoor advertising for the first time this year, but even so 200 of the top 300 brands have never used it. There is plenty of scope for growth through new clients.

Elsewhere, More's new five-year plan envisages growth coming from diversifying away from bus shelters to backgrounds such as recycling bins and public toilets, from increasing yield per

site by using shorter campaigns and better illumination, and from expanding in new markets such as south-east Asia.

The problem with such attractive investments, of course, is that they come at a price. On the basis of forecast profits of about £18m this year the shares trade on a p/e of about 20 at 69.15p, down 2p. For a growth rate going forward in the mid to high teens that is pretty steep.

### McKechnie is back on track

McKechnie, the plastic mouldings to fasteners group, has been a nice little earner over the years. Hit hard by recession, profits have recovered smoothly during most of the 1990s and, after a pause for breath last year, the group now looks on course to resume the growth track.

Yesterday's figures reflect de-stocking, especially by electronics and telecoms customers, plus the weak market for housing-related products like curtain rails, which hit McKechnie from the end of 1995. Pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £50.3m in the 12 months to July were only kept moving by the £5.7m operating contribution from three acquisitions picked up during the year.

Even so, the strength of McKechnie's market positions meant it could squeeze another 15 points out of gross margins in the year.

The de-stocking problem now seems to have eased, while the recovery in UK housing sales should spell good news - around 15 per cent of the business is dependent on the domestic DIY market. The 10 per cent of sales, mostly fasteners, which currently go into aircraft should also prosper during the current boom in orders. There should be some growth in the automotive side, around a quarter of the group, which will be boosted by a first-time contribution from last month's £15.3m acquisition of Dzus, a maker of clips.

The only question mark is the fifth of sales made into the depressed Australian new housing market, although McKechnie is confident that will pick up next year. Meanwhile, gearing of 22 per cent leaves the management well placed for further acquisitions.

Profits of £62m this year would put the shares, up 22.5p at 551p, on a forward multiple of 13. Stay aboard.

### TARMAC: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £267m, share price 66.5p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996	Half year
Turnover (£m)	39.3	47.8	50.3	51.6	25.8
Pre-tax profits (£m)	43.1	107.3	20.3	15.9	58.3
Earnings per share (pence)	11.5	27.2	5.1	4.0	12.4
Dividends per share (pence)	5.5	5.5	5.5	3.0	3.0

### Profit and turnover

£m

Turnover

Operating profit

Heavy building materials

Construction services

1996 1995

1996 1995

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### Share price

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## Chelsfield shifts focus with bid for Exclusive hotels

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Chelsfield, the property company run by Elliott Bernerd, has entered the bidding for several of the Exclusive hotels being sold by Granada. Any acquisition would represent a further shift in emphasis towards the leisure industry for Chelsfield, which has a wide range of property interests including shopping centres, offices, a film studio and golf course, but as yet no hotels.

Mr Bernerd is understood to be interested in acquiring hotel rooms to serve its Wentworth golf course operation both near to the course and in central London. The Wentworth operation gives away large amounts of business to local and London hotels and its thought to be keen to claw some of it back.

Granada said recently it hoped to announce the disposal of the former Forte luxury hotels by the end of the year. Chelsfield already has in-house expertise in the hotel sector

through the head of the Wentworth business, Willi Bauer, who used to run the Grosvenor House hotel in London.

Chelsfield's interest in hotels is in keeping with the company's move in recent years away from traditional property investments such as office blocks, which Mr Bernerd believes have only limited scope for growth. He has focused instead on big retail and leisure investments such as the Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands, Wentworth and a proposed 850,000 square foot centre at White City in West London, which Chelsfield is developing in partnership with Godfrey Bradman, the former head of Rosehaugh.

One office development, Wool House in London's Carlton Gardens, has been put on hold while the company determines whether to apply for permission to turn the site into luxury apartments. Chelsfield owns several riverside office buildings in London which it is planning to convert into resi-

dential schemes, including one next to the Globe Theatre recreation in Southwark.

News of Chelsfield's shift accompanied interim profit figures, which emerged at the top end of analysts' expectations with profits rising from £4.3m to £6m and net assets per share up from 174p to 197p. The shares closed 1p higher at 281p.

Mr Bernerd said Merry Hill continued to be the principal contributor to a strong rental income performance. Rents rose 14 per cent in the period to £17.4m. An application to build a 450,000 square foot extension to the shopping centre, which since June has been wholly owned by Chelsfield, is on the desk of the Environment Secretary, John Gummer. The project would involve a £100m investment.

Chelsfield has become one of the property sector's best-regarded companies since listing three years ago. Earlier this year it launched a £102m rights issue, taken up over 99 per cent

## British Gas man to take top job at Enterprise Oil

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Enterprise Oil yesterday moved to ensure an orderly succession at the top after it announced that Pierre Jungels, head of exploration and production at British Gas, would take on the chief executive's job from Graham Hoare, who is also the oil group's long-standing executive chairman.

Mr Hoare will move to a non-executive role, while Mike Pink is to retire as managing director after two-and-a-half years in the job. He is expected to receive a payoff not exceeding his annual salary of £230,000.

The appointment of Mr Jungels, a Belgian, who starts the £350,000-a-year post in January, sent shares in Enterprise 3.5p higher to 519p yesterday.

Mr Hoare is credited with building Enterprise into a major oil exploration and production group since its spin-off from British Gas in 1984, but he



Pierre Jungels, takes over from Graham Hoare

ing. "The 52-year-old Mr Jungels would be seen as a safe pair of hands, keeping the seat warm for the up and coming 'young Turks' among the junior management at Enterprise," he added.

Mr Hoare said it would be his 60th birthday next year, the normal date for retirement at Enterprise. "I wrote the rule book to get a new chief executive after 13 years."

The board had been working on succession policy for some time and had always expected that Mr Pink, who also reaches retirement age next year, would bow out.

Mr Hoare said Mr Jungels would be "chief executive in every sense of the term", but he also said he intended to carry on as chairman for a few more years. Mr Jungels only joined British Gas at the end of last year, just before the group announced plans to break itself into two parts.

has not been popular with the City since the failure of his £1.6bn bid for rival Lasso two years ago.

One analyst said: "Graham Hoare fell out of favour during the bid for Lasso, so quite a lot of people will be glad to see the back of him. There is a certain amount of relief that he is going to be out."

## Blue Circle in joint venture to develop Kent land

Blue Circle Industries is forming a joint venture to develop its surplus land holdings, in particular the cement company's 2,250 acres in north-west Kent, where it has already submitted a planning application to develop 175 acres in the Ebbsfleet valley.

The venture is with Lead Lease and will be called White-

cliff, which will have a six-member board.

The total north-west Kent project envisages up to 5.3 million square feet of commercial development and 3,200 new houses around the proposed international and domestic passenger station to be built on the Channel Tunnel rail link at Ebbsfleet.

The north west Kent area also includes the 1.6 million square feet Binwater retail and leisure centre, in which Blue Circle and Lead Lease are already in partnership, and Blue Circle's 3 million square feet mixed use Business Park at Crossways.

Blue Circle hopes that outline planning permission for the de-

velopment at Ebbsfleet will be granted in mid-1997, facilitating the first phase of commercial development to be ready for occupation in 2003, to coincide with the opening of the station.

At the outset, Stuart Hornery, chairman of Lead Lease, will be chairman of Whitecliff and Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive of Blue

Circle, will be deputy chairman. Tony Kemp, Blue Circle property director, will be the chief executive and John McCready, a director of Blue Circle Properties, will be chief operating officer.

Blue Circle said its group lands division will not be affected by the creation of the joint venture.

## Airline awards take off without Branson

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The Business Traveller Awards at the Savoy Hotel became a battle of the airline giants yesterday with Lord Young, Sir Freddie Laker and Richard Branson all in attendance. Sir Freddie had been lined up to present the award for best business class to Virgin. But the bearded wonder failed to show in time and Sir Freddie was left on the podium to accept the award on his behalf.

Lord Archer had already stepped up to present the next batch of awards when in a flurry of doors and linen garments, he walked the delayed Branson. He strode to the front table, sat in the wrong seat and had to be moved. "You just can't get the slots these days," quipped the compere.

Lord Archer could not resist poking fun as well. "You've just missed everything," he told the grinning Virgin chief. "There will now be a small hiss for the late Richard Branson," he said and the assembled throng duly obliged.

To add insult to injury, Branson then had to sit while Lord Archer handed the rest of the airline awards to his *bête noire*, British Airways. BA chief executive Robert Ayling, who had managed to touch down at the Savoy in time and was set on Branson's table, was able to scoop the awards while no doubt reveling in his rival's discomfort.

Sir Freddie Laker was on good form at the Business Traveller event, pleased as punch with the perfor-

mance of his new transatlantic airline, which he launched in April. A business class will be added early next year. (He hopes to take the award from Virgin in '97.) Further routes are also planned. "I'm loving it. It's great fun," he said.

But he expressed surprise when told that his old enemy Lord King was also at the event and even more surprised when he found they were seated at adjoining tables. "I've never met him," the former Skytrain king said. Lord King was also keen to play down past battles. "We're all trying to earn a living."

Ann Iverson, the Laura Ashley chief executive, is refusing to rise to the bait of Ikea's latest advertising, which extolls furniture buyers to "chuck out the chintz". Resplendent in a tres fashionable and un-chintzy "New Black" (brown) dress and matching "chocolate kisses" nail varnish, she said Laura Ashley would remain forever England. And if that means chintz then so be it. "It's a free world," she said. "Our customer research shows that they like the quintessentially English look. It's romantic. It's comfortable. It's part of our culture. Are we going to throw that away? I don't think so."

Harrods Bank is upping the stakes in the private client banking world by targeting more women customers. General manager John Simmons is due to



Having fun: Sir Freddie Laker loves being back in the air Photograph: PA

regale the London Ladies club next month with a grandly tilted talk on "red carpet retail banking". For the bargain price of £5, ladies who lunch get to hear all about the grace and favour of post banking where, in Harrods' case, there are no bank charges as long as your deposit does not dip below the poverty line. That means £1,000.

Harrods Bank is also co-sponsoring a recital at the Wigmore Hall, London by forte-pianist Melvyn Tan. The sponsorship is part of a deal between Harrods and the bank to promote the bank's musical instrument loan scheme and a

new piano called the Knightsbridge being sold exclusively by the top store. With the Harrods coat

# Bid rumours boost insurers as Footsie struggles

## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Insurance shares are bubbling again following the long-suffering Lloyds TSB strike at Lloyds Abbey Life.

Since the banking giant finally got around to confirming its intention of bidding for full control of its insurance arm, the sector has, in general, resisted the stock market's sudden bout of insecurity which has driven Footsie down, 63.8 points in three days.

Legal & General has been one of the beneficiaries, its shares gained 15p yesterday, making a 29p advance to 78.5p since Lloyds TSB was stirred into action.

The insurance sector has been on bid alert for years. Rumours have often swirled of overseas predators. What is now Sun Life & Provincial has fallen under French control and Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, in a blatant defensive merger, got together to create Royal Sun Alliance.



DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Ann Mills given responsibility for global trading.

A US investment road show, said to be backed by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, created a little excitement among media shares with Carlton Communications up 16.5p to 489p.

Granada was also involved with analysts, offering a trading update before its year ends next week. The shares fell 17p to 870.5p, still some analysts were encouraged to lift their forecasts, with NatWest Securities moving up 10p to 1460p.

Superstores were firmer with Sainsbury, helped by talk of another share buy-back, up 6.5p to 331p. Other retailers

Stories that ABN Amro Hoare Govett had suffered heavy losses on its market making activities are having an unsettling influence. Hoare's Peter Meierthagen said the group had experienced a difficult third quarter but losses were "a lot less" than the rumoured £20m.

The securities group is thought to have suffered from its exposure to Berisford, Hanson, Iceland and Wickes, the do-it-yourself group which is suspended following accounting problems.

Hoare has reshuffled its team, with Giles Fitzpatrick, in charge of trading and research, becoming operations chief and

were subdued by BZW comments and banks were marked down, allegedly on UBS caution. Laura Ashley, with results below expectations, added to the retail gloom. Its shares fell 22p to 193.5p and House of Fraser 7p to 160p. Standard Chartered was the main banking casualty, down 13.5p to 705p.

The Rank Organisation offer for the Tom Cobligh pub chain gnawed at the bidder's shares, lowering the price 8.5p to 430.5p. The feeling is that Rank will have to mount bids for other pub groups to support the deal. Cobligh edged ahead to 236p.

Agis held at 64.5p. FMR, the US investment group, has picked up 25.9 million shares, 3.12 per cent. The media buyer has been the subject of takeover speculation with WPP rumoured to be interested. A defensive merger with CIA, off 2p at 154.5p, is also mooted.

Standard Bank, the fledgling drugs group working on treatment for TB, jumped 32.5p to 395p as Famure Gordon emerged as stockbroker to the company.

Frost, the petrol retailer, held at 122p. Merrill Lynch believes the company has been frozen out of the new style petrol merry-go-round and "less in control of its own destiny". Profits are forecast at £10.5m, down from £15.1m.

Walmor, the printer, firmed to 405p as Henderson Crosthwaite said buy and Reunion Mining continued to benefit from the Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull recommendation, gaining 4.5p to 70p.

Radians, the computer group, dipped 10p to 63.5p, despite a 20 per cent interim profit advance to just over £1m. The group, developing and providing computer software, is trading well and has picked up a number of contracts.

John Siddall could be the first stockbroker to join Ofex, the fringe share market run by jobber John Jenkins. The Manchester stockbroker is in merger talks with Chartfield Fund Management, which is already traded on Ofex.

Parisc Investments, the parent company for a group of financial advisers and fund managers, is also involved in the discussions.

The three-way merger would more than double Chartfield's size. The group, run by Michael Flawa Thomas, already embraces the four Waverley unit trusts. Funds under management are £100m. Chartfield's shares held at 65p.

Liberty Douglas, the builder, could lift profits from £11.8m to £17.5m this year with £22m likely next, believe Merrill Lynch. The shares, at 497.5p, are rated a buy.

## TAKING STOCK

Alcoholic Beverages	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock
Asahi	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Heineken	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
King	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Sankey	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Thames Valley	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Watney	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Windsor	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Yell	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Yell	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000

Banking	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of Scotland	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of Wales	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of Ireland	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of Montreal	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of America	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of New York	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of Tokyo	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of China	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Bank of India	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000

Engineering	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Stock
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000
Alstom	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	10000

I WANT TO  
BE SURE my  
savings will keep  
pace with inflation.  
Any ideas?

Terry Pearson,  
LEEDS

FIND THE ANSWER IN  
Money

# INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

## LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS



**T**oday we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 6 (Wk 6) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 16 - Sunday 22 September inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 22 September.

We are also publishing our Top 50 League table (see right). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 15 September. Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday.

If your player of manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, don't despair, there will be a chance to update your team in our transfer period which will be announced soon.



**PRIZES**

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time.

Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

**MONTH 1 PRIZEWINNER**

Our first month's winner is Mr David Edmundson from Worthing, Sussex. He has scored 282 points with his team Edmo United and has won a pair of tickets to a qualifying game. The first month's prize is for matches played between Saturday 17 August to Sunday 22 September.

**SCORING SYSTEM**

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr S A Scott	Filon Backbone	254
2	Mr T S Nighte	Simply The Best	253
3	Mr T Sarra	Biza Boys	252
4	Mr Steve Bizzdon	Bazzy Def	252
5	Mr Kris Murray	No Future	251
6	Mr Steve Playne	S.G.W. No. 2	251
7	Mr Brian Mufytt	Care Street	251
8	Mr Ian Newcastle	Frank Freeman	251
9	Mr Paul Davies	Chatonase United	250
10	Mr Peter Nelson	Middle Mouse	249
11	Mr Gary Hood	J.N.H. 2	249
12	Mr R Jones	RJ 4	247
13	Mr Philip Cartwright	N. F. O. D.	247
14	Mr Paul Kingdom	Rippers 3rd Time Lucky	246
15	Mr P. Fra	Gunkin Is the Best	246
16	Mr P. Sherlock	Lincoln St Giles	246
17	Mr J Perkins	Hamaozu Latham FC	246
18	Mr B. Clegue	Aimon Corner Kickers	246
19	Mr Tony Hanna	Alice Fergins	246
20	Mr Gerald Whitehead	Jezventus	245
21	Mr Michael Dwyer	That's Handy Harry	244
22	Ms Rebecca Kay	Redbrook Devils	243
23	Mr Peter Robinson	On The Ball City	243
24	Mr Peter Frankental	Sandino	243
25	Mr Paddy Falls	Curlyon Crackers	242
26	Mr Steven Lawrence	Tessa's Little Marrows	242
27	Mr Steven Hart	Keen Cowboys	242
28	Mr David R Baker	Baker Boys 5	242
29	Mr Simon Seymour	Grave Interest	241
30	Mr Andy Blatchford	Jimmy Hill Haters Utd	241
31	Mr G Lake	Basket of Eggs	241
32	Mr Richard Colley	Hatrick Delights	241
33	Mr Andrew Burns	Wimbledon Stomphhead	241
34	Mr Nigel Pain	Up and Running	241
35	Mr Ashish Shah	Team No 1	241
36	Mr Andy Beard	A3 Milan	240
37	Mr Frank Pendragon	Cawmere Athletic	240
38	Mr D J Hornsby	Good Evans	240
39	Mr Mark Watson	Red Star Surrey	240
40	Mr S Jardine	Jardine Second 11th	240
41	Mr P Stewart	Pace Makers	240
42	Mr J Warrick	The Velvet Alternative 239	239
43	Dr Tom Boyle	Last Gasp Gullits	239
44	Mr R Jones	RJ Three	239
45	Mr Keith Watson	Elementary Opportunities	239

# TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS Wk6	VALUE Wk6	POINTS Ov	VALUE Ov (£m)
<b>GOALKEEPERS</b>						
300	Seaman	ARS	6	17	5.9	
303	Bosnich	AV	0	4.0		
304	Flowers	BLA	1	7	5.2	
305	Kharine	CHE	0	21	3.7	
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1	7	1.5	
307	Ogrizovic	COV	0	6	2.2	
308	Filan	COV	0	0	1.5	
309	Southall	EVE	1	14	3.3	
310	Maryna	LEE	1	23	4.7	
311	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
312	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
313	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
314	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
315	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
316	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
317	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
318	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
319	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
320	James	LIV	0	0	1.5	
<b>DEFENDERS</b>						
403	Dixon	ARS	9	27	3.1	
404	Bould	ARS	4	4	5.3	
405	Adams	ARS	4	24	3.7	
406	Keown	ARS	5	21	3.0	
407	Stannett	ARS	5	28	3.0	
408	Southgate	ARS	5	23	3.4	
409	McGrath	ARS	5	27	3.0	
410	Ehligo	ARS	5	23	3.4	
411	Wright	ARS	5	23	3.4	
412	Tiler	ARS	5	23	3.4	
413	Berg	ARS	5	23	3.4	
414	Lea	ARS	5	23	3.4	
415	Coleman	ARS	5	23	3.4	
416	Handy	ARS	5	23	3.4	
417	Kenna	ARS	5	23	3.4	
418	Duberry	ARS	5	23	3.4	
419	Petruscu	ARS	5	23	3.4	
420	Phelan	ARS	5	23	3.4	
421	Lebeouf	ARS	5	23	3.4	
422	Stachur	ARS	5	23	3.4	
423	Minto	ARS	5	23	3.4	
424	Daish	ARS	5	23	3.4	
425	Shaw	ARS	5	23	3.4	
426	Burrows	ARS	5	23	3.4	
427	Solinas	ARS	5	23	3.4	
428	Powell (C)	ARS	5	23	3.4	
429	Wassall	ARS	5	23	3.4	
430	Short	ARS	5	23	3.4	
431	Watson	ARS	5	23	3.4	
432	Unsworth	ARS	5	23	3.4	
<b>MIDFIELDERS</b>						
553	Reeves	WIM	0	0	1.8	
554	Thorn	WIM	0	0	1.8	
555	Thatcher	WIM	0	16	2.7	
600	Meson	ARS	5	21	4.4	
601	Platt	ARS	5	7	4.8	
602	Parfou	ARS	1	6	2.4	
603	Parfou	ARS	1	6	2.4	
604	Holder	ARS	0	2	3.7	
605	Hillier	ARS	0	2	1.5	
606	Taylor	ARS	1	7	1.9	
607	Taylor	ARS	1	9	3.1	
608	Townsend	ARS	1	10	4.1	
609	Draper	ARS	1	11	3.0	
610	Donis	ARS	1	11	3.0	
611	Wilson	ARS	1	11	3.0	
612	Ripley	ARS	1	11	3.0	
613	Sherwood	ARS	1	11	3.0	
614	Flitcroft	ARS	1	11	3.0	
615	Gallagher	ARS	1	11	3.0	
616	Duffy	ARS	1	11	3.0	
617	McGuffee	ARS	1	11	3.0	
618	McGuffee	ARS	1	11	3.0	
619	McGuffee	ARS	1	11	3.0	
620	McGuffee	ARS	1	11	3.0	
<b>STRIKERS</b>						
800	Bergkamp	ARS	18	29	7.2	
801	Wright	ARS	7	13	3.7	
802	Harford	ARS	1	9	6.7	
803	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
804	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
805	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
806	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
807	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
808	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
809	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
810	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
811	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
812	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
813	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
814	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
815	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
816	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
817	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
818	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
819	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
820	McGuffee	ARS	1	10	4.4	
<b>MANAGERS</b>						
900	Kregan	NEW	3	15	8.0	
901	Ferguson	MU	1	13	9.0	
902	Evans	LIV	3	17	7.0	
903	Rioch	ARS	0	0	6.0	
904	Royle	EVE	1	6	5.5	
905	Harford	BLA	1	2	5.5	
906	Francis	TOT	0	8	5.0	
907	Wilkinson	LEE	0	7	3.5	
908	Redknapp	WH	3	8	3.3	
909	Gullit	CHE	0	12	4.5	
910	Clark	NOT	0	6	3.3	
911	Robson	MID	0	11	5.0	
912	Reid	SUN	3	9	2.0	
913	Souness	SOT	0	2	2.3	
914	O'Neill	LEE	3	8	1.8	
915	Smith	DER	1	10	2.0	
916	Kinnear	WIM	0	9	2.2	
917	Atkinson	COV	0	4	4.0	
918	Little	AV	1	12	5.0	
919	Fleat	SW	1	13	3.5	

**RULES AND CONDITIONS**

1. Only entries made via The Independent Fantasy Football website will be valid.

2. For your Fantasy Football team selection you may only use the players published in the official list in The Independent.

3. Entries must be made by 11pm on the day of the match.

4. The player must be a member of the Premiership.

5. The player must be a member of the Premiership.

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# Cumani colt cuts in on Ashkalani's big day

Richard Edmondson reports on an historic weekend for the Aga Khan

Visitors to Ascot on Saturday may be treated to the notable sight of witnessing the Aga Khan's first win in British racing after a five-year exile. While victory for his Ashkalani in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes would dominate the afternoon's attention, the course television could show a symbolically more significant performance 25 minutes later in the comparatively prosaic Knutsford Maiden Stakes at Haydock.

Whatever Mandilak achieves in his racing career, his name is destined to be immortalised in sports quizzers for years to come as he transports the much-misunderstood and redoubtable Aga Khan to the straight at Newmarket-Willows. The colt, who has an alternative engagement at Ascot on Sunday, will be the Aga Khan's first British-trained runner since he withdrew his horses from here over the disqualification of Alyssa from the 1989 Oaks.

The intervening five years have been huffy to those who are sustained by watching good horses, but the removal was more immediately devastating to the owner's principal trainers in Britain, Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani. Stoute still

has none of the Aga Khan's horses, but Cumani, who trains Mandilak, is in possession of 12 juveniles and opens a new era this weekend.

When 40 of the Aga Khan's well-bred beasts disappeared from Cumani's Bedford House yard at the beginning of the decade it was a fearsome blow as he recovered from the effects of the recession and exodus of American owners from his stable. "So it was great news for the yard when it was announced about this time last year that the Aga Khan was coming back," the Italian said yesterday.

Cumani believes the Aga's return is beneficial, not just for him personally but also confers prestige on the whole of the sport in this nation. "If you believe that British racing should be seen as the No 1 in the world, it's very important that the Aga Khan should race his horses here," the trainer said. "We have to have the best horses and the best owners here."

"If everyone believes the best horses in the world are here, they will come to watch

the highest standard and come to buy the highest standard."

Cumani is unsure as yet of the precise standard of the fresh intake. As ever, the batch of Aga Khan horses is not bred to supply a battery of juvenile flying machines. "We knew all along that what we would not be sharp two-year-olds but horses more likely to excel at three and now we're just getting ready to run a few of them," Cumani said. "There are a handful of promising ones among them but we will have to see how they develop with their races this year and throughout the winter."

The Aga Khan has in fact had only five runners since his return to the British arena, but all have been sent into play with outstanding chances. It is ironic that Timarida, who has won in France, Germany, Canada, the United States and Ireland, where she is trained, should see the form of Royal Ascot's Queen Anne Stakes to turn in the worst display of her career.

Similarly, Ashkalani has been beaten only once in his life, but that was his sole venture to

these shores, also at Royal Ascot, in the St James's Palace Stakes.

Ashkalani is well fancied to make a repair on Saturday, not least because he is considered among the best horses ever reared by his owner-breeder. The colt is trained on the outskirts of Paris, at the private complex of Aiglemont, by Alain de Royer-Dupré, who may have wished for a first winner in Britain when he blew out the 52 candles on his birthday cake yesterday.

Ashkalani, who was short-circuited to 3-1 (from 7-2) by William Hill yesterday, did his final piece of serious work on the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday. He was a first winner in Britain when he blew out the 52 candles on his birthday cake yesterday.

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Ashkalani (right) is just caught by Biju d'Inde at Ascot. Photograph: Sporting Life

## Bell strikes with double

Michael Bell completed a 47-1 double with Shining Cloud and Girl With The Wind at Nottingham yesterday to take his seasonal tally to 49 winners, only one short of his 1995 total.

"My horses have hit a rich vein of form. Long may it continue," said Bell, whose two winners, both partnered by stable jockey Michael Fenton, scored by an aggregate of 12 lengths.

Shining Cloud was backed from 12-1 to 7-1 and made all the running up the stands rail to win by six lengths.

## Betting on the Net

Live betting shows from bookmakers and the Tote on the same screen are to be available on the Internet, it was announced yesterday.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Mattinson (NBS Solo Gen) (Perth 3.40)

Peter Dow, the Tote's marketing director, said: "The first time outside of a Tote bookmaking shop, people can

## Graf fees in breach of WTA rules

Tennis

The German tennis federation, the DTB, admitted yesterday it had paid Steffi Graf, the world No 1, appearance money, a practice which is banned by the women's tour.

Olimar Sanders, the DTB general secretary, was giving evidence to the court trying Graf's father, Peter, on charges of tax evasion. Sanders told the court, trying to establish how much money was funnelled abroad out of the reach of tax authorities, that Peter Graf had been paid between £150,000 (£100,000) and £270,000 a year for "services and advertising" in connection with federation-run events in Hamburg and Berlin between 1990 and 1993.

Asked if this was mostly money paid to ensure the tournaments had a big-name attraction, Sanders replied "Yes".

The news weekly *Der Spiegel* said at the weekend the widespread payment of appearance money to all top women players was an open secret.

It said Steffi Graf and the joint world No 1, Monica Seles, each commanded between \$30,000 and \$400,000 to play in an event, depending on its size, with players ranked down to No 13 receiving correspondingly less.

The anecdotal examples cited by *Der Spiegel* from records produced in connection with Peter Graf's trial added up to a total of well over \$2m in appearance payments.

Kimiko Date, Japan's leading women player, is to retire at the end of the season, saying she had achieved all she could. "I came to think that now is the limit of my strength," Date said. Date, who turns 26 on Saturday, reached the Wimbledon semi-finals this year before losing to Graf.

## GOODWOOD

**HYPERION**  
2.30 Silca's My Key 3.00 Pelham 3.30 Watersport 4.00 Hagwath 4.30 Mindrace 5.00 Ash Shade 5.30 Mattemoo

GOING: Good to Firm.  
STALLS: Straight course - steady; side - inside (except 1m 4f outside).  
CLAY ADVANTAGE: High for 7 to 10.  
RIGHT-LENDING: with sharp bends and gradients.  
COURSE: In N of Chichester between A250 and A255. Chichester station 4m. ADMISSION: Richmond Enclosure £10, Gorse Enclosure £10, Public Enclosure £4 (over 65s). Accompanied under 17s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: £2 or free.

**LEADING TRAINERS WITH RINNERS:** 1. Hamman - 45 winners from 397 runners gives a success rate of 11.3% and a best to a 5-1 level stake of £78.50; 2. P. Cole - 27 winners, 138 runners, 20.3%; 3. J. Gosden - 23 winners, 127 runners, 18.1%; 4. S. J. Doolan - 19 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 5. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 6. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 7. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 8. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 9. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 10. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 11. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 12. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 13. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 14. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 15. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 16. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 17. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 18. J. Gosden - 17 winners, 107 runners, 17.8%; 19. J. 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## SPORT



## CONFESSIONS OF A RUGBY EXILE

As his team prepare to face France tonight, Chris Hewett talks to a controversial Welshman who makes his living in England

Page 24

## Preston out to deepen Spurs' misery

## Football

Manager Michael Holt will have the chance to repeat his Coca-Cola Cup heroics as Preston attempt to add to Tottenham's woes at White Hart Lane tonight.

The 19-year-old striker, picked up on a free transfer from Blackburn during the summer, gave the Second Division side a glimmer of hope going into the second-leg tie with a late equaliser when the teams drew 1-1 at Deepdale last week.

With Preston gripped by an injury crisis that worsened after Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Wrexham, Holt will again partner the wily Andy Snyman in attack when the famous old club go in search of glory in north London.

The manager, Gary Peters, has fresh fitness worries over new £75,000 signing Mark Rankine, winger Kevin Kilbane and central defender Ryan Kidd. "Our physio Mick Rathbone is a busy man at the moment," Peters said. "The amount of injuries we have is unbelievable."

Preston will beam the action back to Deepdale on a giant screen expected to attract a crowd of around 8,000 – an indication on the potential Peters began to harness when he guided them to promotion last term. But he will be sending his team out against a Spurs side whose demand nothing less than a third round passage following Sunday's 2-1 home defeat by Leicester.

Francis, who has been linked to IK Stockholm's young striker

er Pascal Simpson, is also beset by injury worries, although Teddy Sheringham is winning his battle against a thigh problem. Chris Armstrong is unlikely to shake off the ankle injury that has kept him out, but first-leg goalscorer Darren Anderton will play with the aid of painkillers to numb a groin injury.

Derby's Jim Smith is another manager demanding a better show from his team as the Rams attempt to overturn a 1-0 deficit when Luton travel to the Baseball Ground.

Derby's promising start to the Premiership campaign counted for nothing when Julian James scored a goal that hardly reflected the Second Division side's superiority.

Smith admitted: "The only good thing is that it is only 1-0. The scoreline flattered us and it could easily have been 3-1. We were not in the right frame of mind and I felt we allowed the initiative to go to Luton. It means we now have a big job to do and if we aren't right again, we will have major problems."

Smith is still without several key players, including the classy "Croat" midfielder Aljosja Asanovic, who misses his second game with a thigh strain. Wing-back Chris Powell has a cold and missed training yesterday, but the defender Matt Carlton is available after recovering from concussion.

The German winger Sascha Lemm is set to make his Leicester City debut against Scarborough after being snapped up on a free transfer from Belgian side Royal Antwerp.

Martin O'Neill plans to rest

several first-team regulars, with his side holding a 2-0 lead, meaning rare outings for goalkeeper Kevin Poole and the transfer-listed pair Mark Robins and Colin Hill. Striker Steve Claridge is out with an ankle injury while Ian Marshall is cup-tied after playing for Ipswich against Bournemouth in the first round.

West Ham, thankful for Tony Cottee's late equaliser in the first leg at Barnet, are confident of finishing the job at Upton Park. Midfielder Ian Bishop, who returned to the Hammers

side at Underhill last week after a seven-week lay-off with a thigh muscle tear, said: "You have always got to fancy your chances at home – whether you are playing a Third Division side or a Premier League side."

Queen's Park Rangers meet visitors Swindon for the third time in a week holding a 2-1 advantage, while Wimbledon travel to Portsmouth with a slender 1-0 lead. Elsewhere Chelsea entertain Blackpool with a 4-1 first-leg lead and Southampton visit Peterborough with a 2-0 lead.

## Lee puzzled by the notion of a poisoned chalice

Talk to Francis Lee about the state of affairs at Manchester City and you are sure to hear about the impressive developments that have taken place during the two and a half years of his chairmanship; the towering £12m Kippax stand with its 600-seat restaurant and sumptuous executive boxes; second-to-none training facilities; a turnaround – profits up from a paltry £60,000 to more than £1m – in catering and marketing. "I defy anyone to come here and not feel that this is a very big club," Lee said this week.

Trouble is that the team has not been worthy of the stage. "We may be better than you think," I remember Lee saying at York races shortly after he returned to Maine Road at the urgent behest of disgruntled supporters. Time proved him wrong. A late burst of form saved City from relegation first time around but the truth of it was made clear last season when they dropped into the First Division.

A year last summer Lee tested the water around George Graham who had yet to be suspended as the result of a "hung" scandal, and Glen Hoddie before persuading his old pal, Alan Ball, that City had more to offer than Southampton.

Since Ball's sudden departure after a disappointing start to the present campaign Lee has been fishing around unsuccessfully for a manager, the notion of a poisoned chalice made more acute last week when Dave Bassett changed his mind at the last minute. "That's bollocks," Lee stated. "I didn't approach Bassett. He let his interest be known through a

Manchester City's beleaguered chairman explains to Ken Jones the problems he has had finding a new manager and talks frankly of his own role at the club

third party and eventually I got around to making him a terrific offer. I agreed to written assurances that there would be no interference in team matters and the staff changes he wanted. Bassett wanted to bring in the Luton manager, Lennie Lawrence, as his assistant and I went along with that as well. Then on the morning Bassett is supposed to be here he decides to stay with Palace. Draw your

*'Bassett wanted to bring in the Luton manager Lennie Lawrence as well... I went along with that'*

own conclusions."

If Lee feels used it is understandable. The other day he challenged a group of football reporters to bet on the names of those who had turned down the opportunity of managing City. "Wrong," he snorted when Howard Keodall's name was put forward. "Sheffield United wouldn't allow me to speak with Howard, so that was the end of it." Bassett was dealt with, then Kenny Dalglish who made it clear to Lee that football management no longer appeals to him. "Once I heard that there was no point in mak-

ing Kenny an offer," Lee said. Yes, Lee did approach George Graham after reading comments attributed to him in newspapers. A meeting was arranged between Graham and City's solicitor but nothing came of it. "I think George was just keeping himself in the frame," Lee added.

An interesting thing about Lee is that for three or four years before taking up 29 per cent of City's shares he had more or less turned his back on football. Successful in business and turning out enough winners to gain a great deal of respect in horse racing circles, he rarely saw a game. "Can't be bothered with it," he used to say.

A change of heart followed the realisation that he could only further his burgeoning reputation by moving to one of the big training centres. "My business interests simply didn't allow for that and then came the clamour for me to take over from Peter Swales at Maine Road," he said one night over dinner. "Thinking about all the tremendous years I had there as a player, the mess they were in, how disappointing it all was for the supporters, I couldn't resist it."

Lee knew from the start that he was there to be shot at. Not for him the safety net of philanthropic involvement. Here was the return of an outstanding footballer bringing with him the memory of past glories. Fine, but who could feel comfortable managing City in



Francis Lee: 'I don't understand guys who think it was a good day when they've helped get a manager sacked'

Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

Lee's presence? Does it explain why the search for a new manager is proving so difficult? Lee thinks that to be an insult. "The suggestion that I interfere in team affairs is absolute rubbish," he said. "When Brian Horton was here he made it clear that I was welcome at the training ground and I respected his wishes. Alan [Ball] didn't mind me showing up so I went along occasionally, but only to

watch, never to make suggestions. Because I'm often busy elsewhere on Thursdays and Fridays there are lots of weeks when I don't know what team we are putting out until I turn up for matches."

While Lee admits to an input when it comes to buying players he does not think it unusual. "There's a lot of money involved these days and it would surprise me if any big clubs rely solely on the man-

ager's opinion. We've got some excellent scouts here so the decision has to be collective."

Although Lee understands the frustration being expressed by even the most loyal of City's supporters he rejects completely the idea of conceding to another takeover. "In any case, despite all the talk, nobody has come forward. I'm prepared to make all information about the

club available but, as a duty to our shareholders, only if I know who I'm dealing with."

The daftest suggestion is that Lee should put his business interests on hold, clear the decks and manage City himself. "No chance," he chuckled. Meanwhile names keep cropping up; the latest is Steve Coppell. Part of the problem, Lee insists, is the role played in all this by some newspapers. "Alan's life was made a mis-

ery," he said. "I simply don't understand guys who think it was a good day at the office when they've helped to get a football manager sacked. How can they live with themselves?" Every opponent who tried to take a liberty with Lee the footballer learned quickly that he was not easily intimidated. What the louder of City's restless supporters should bear in mind is that time has not changed him.

## Referee 'shocked' at instant ban for Poole

The referee Richard Poulain has admitted he was shocked by the instant ban given to Birmingham City defender Gary Poole, the man he sent off for pushing him at Maine Road on Saturday.

The Football Association took prompt action on receiving Poulain's faxed report, immediately suspending Poole for two weeks, all of which took the Huddersfield official by surprise.

He said: "I'm shocked and surprised by the FA's action. I didn't know they had an instant ban option. I thought players normally had 14 days' grace – I understand why Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis says he's surprised. So am I."

"I didn't put anything in the report about an assault or an attack. The FA must have put that inference on things themselves. All I wanted to point out was why I sent him off – which was for pushing me from behind."

The 29-year-old former Southend full-back rushed up to referee Poulain after the official had awarded Manchester City a last-minute match-winning penalty. Poulain required treatment from the City physio for the

injury he received after the game and indicated that he would be reporting Poole to the FA.

Lancaster Gate spokesman Steve Douhle said Poole had been charged with misconduct and has been placed under instant suspension. Douhle said: "In the situation where a player is alleged to have assaulted a match official it is within our powers to order the offender not to participate in any footballing activity until a commission of inquiry is heard."

That is what has been done today and the hearing to investigate this matter will be held at Lancaster Gate on Monday, 7 October.

The action meant that Poole missed Birmingham's Coca-Cola Cup second round, second leg tie with Coventry last night and will also miss Saturday's important home game with Queen's Park Rangers. Francis admitted the news had come as a shock to him, with Poole selected in his original line-up for the game against Coventry.

Two North-west neighbours were yesterday busy denying

tongue-tying transfer stories concerning Billy McKinlay and John McGinlay.

Blackburn Rovers dismissed suggestions that the Scotland midfielder McKinlay is set to join Celtic, while Bolton Wanderers denied rumours that McGinlay is ready to join Dundee United.

McKinlay, who played in Euro 96, has yet to start a game for Blackburn this season, but talk of him being unsettled has been dismissed by the club. Tony Parkes, assistant manager at Ewood Park, said: "It's just paper talk. These things happen when a player isn't in the team but Billy seems very happy here."

Bolton have denied that striker McGinlay is on his way to Dundee United. Reports north of the border suggested the 32-year-old Inverness-born McGinlay is a target for the Tannadice club, but the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, said: "There isn't an ounce of truth in the story."

McGinlay has played a leading role in helping Bolton surge to the top of the First Division this season following last season's relegation from the Premiership.

## Kinnear keen to keep Holdsworth

The Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, yesterday insisted he wants to keep Dean Holdsworth at the club even though the £5m-rated striker is still on the transfer list at Selhurst Park.

Kinnear and Holdsworth appear to have patched up their early-season differences, with the England B striker returning to the Dons starting line-up.

"We had a clash of opinions and mine was always going to win," Kinnear said. "You can only

have one man running the club and that is me. The club always comes first. But all that is in the past and I want to keep him."

The reconciliation has coincided with renewed speculation that Everton, who made a bid for Holdsworth two years ago, have renewed their interest.

The Leicester striker Mark Robins, whose Premiership chances have been limited so far, has put in a surprise transfer request. Robins joined

Leicester from Norwich for £1m 20 months ago.

The Birmingham owner, David Sullivan, has given the Football Association his backing should they choose to ban the club's fans from away games following violent scenes at the end of Saturday's First Division game at Manchester City.

"If they are not careful, we won't have a club in Birmingham and the ground will be shut down," Sullivan said.

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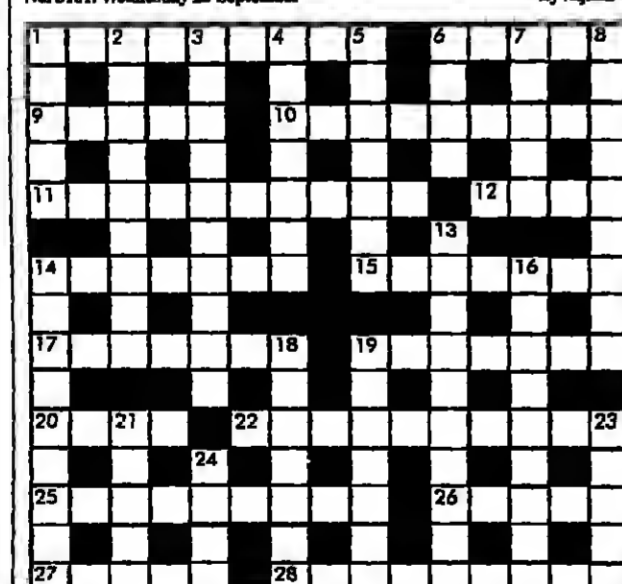
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## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3101. Wednesday 25 September

By Aquila

Thursday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- 1 Hart's sigh, perhaps, hiding? (9)
  - 6 British hooters taking punches? (5)
  - 9 Century not recorded when he led India (5)
  - 10 Hit that produces a single (9)
  - 11 Lay down in studio, carpeted or otherwise (4-6)
  - 12 State of a hut that is to be demolished (4)
  - 14 Water pipes for both grass and the weed (7)
  - 15 Habits in key hotels, possibly (7)
  - 17 Ecotonic, like a bobby taking refreshment (7)
  - 19 Passengers no longer flying victims (7)
  - 20 Lazy, go furiously leaving society behind (4)

- DOWN**
- 1 Implied one is in diplomacy (5)
  - 2 Perfectly dry inside, says painter in evidence (9)
  - 3 Rather as we disturb oceanic bird (10)
  - 4 At-home parties of painted ladies, say? (7)
  - 5 Comprehensive information on old blood-fine (7)

- Across**
- 6 Transport to conduct oneself? (4)
  - 7 Was it transformed by Banting? (5)
  - 8 Producing compound error, reportedly, on paper (9)
  - 13 Strong wire all around Berlin, for example (10)
  - 14 Name for gangsters derived from Ohio slang (9)
  - 16 Robin spardies with tricks? (9)
  - 18 A girl held in endless carper of Chinese society (7)
  - 19 Journalists out of bed for exercise? (5-2)
  - 21 Divulge the French male's weight (3-2)
  - 23 Rent advanced here in Yorkshire (5)
  - 24 Throw up church-bench on Sunday (4)

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